

Tuesday November 5 1996

Table of international exchange rates for various countries including Albania, Australia, Austria, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Très Bien advertisement featuring a woman's face and the text 'Being a perfect mistress, by a woman who knows'.

Information overload advertisement with the text 'When modern life gets too much' and 'G2 cover story'.

Labour links nursery schools to childcare advertisement with the text 'Education' and 'G2 pages 10/11'.



Plot to steal millions from cash points put UK banking system at risk



Artist's impression of John Lloyd (back row, left) with fellow defendants. Fugitive Kenneth Noye (top left).

Conservative grandees ambush Howard

Two former Tory home secretaries last night dealt a blow to Michael Howard's flagship law and order legislation in a dual attack on his "prison works" policy.

Hole in the wall gang

GLOBAL conspiracy to steal hundreds of millions of pounds from cash machines was mounted by an elite team of criminals, it emerged yesterday.

The seven are: John Lloyd, aged 57, of West Kingsdown, Kent; Paul Kidd, 36, of Meopham, Kent; Graham Moore, 32, of Erith, Kent; Stephen Seton, 65, of Chislehurst, Kent; Stephen Moore, 41, of Leytonstone, East London; William Hayward of Yalding, Kent; and John Maguire, 36, of Mottisingham, Kent.

How the scam would have worked: 1 The gang planned to use corrupt British Telecom employees to install phone taps on lines between cash dispensers and banks.

Both were suspects in the \$25 million Brink's-Mat gold bullion robbery in 1983. It was while undercover detectives were searching Noye's Kent mansion for stolen gold that he stabbed to death Detective Constable John Fordham.

Clinton set for hollow victory as campaign ends

Democrats in desperate drive to get vote out as lead shrinks

The race tightened as undecided voters, particularly in the South, appeared to plump for the Republican, Bob Dole.

The polls suggest that the hope of a Clinton landslide has been stopped in the South, where key states such as Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky are tied, or even moving into the Dole camp.

Both candidates will this morning and their whirlwind final campaign tours, each man intent on driving himself and his exhausted entourage across the finish line by pure force of will.

In the final days, the president has invested time and prestige in helping Democratic candidates in the congressional elections.

With a million souls seeking safety and shelter, Oxfam urgently needs money to respond to their desperate plight. Your help will save lives.

Inside Britain section header and introductory text.

World News section header and introductory text.

Finance section header and introductory text.

Sport section header and introductory text.

Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10; G2; Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16.

Oxfam Tragedy in Eastern Zaire advertisement.

It's here: the situation we've been warning the world about for two years has exploded. Already, one million people are fleeing the fighting.

Donation form for Oxfam with fields for name, address, and amount.





Sketch

Unwise counsel that failed to keep the privy private



Simon Hoggart

HERE'S a story that tells you much of what you need to know about modern British life and society. A few late nights ago I was watching Channel 4, and caught the result of an adjudication by the Broadcasting Complaints Commission.

agree to be filmed while sitting on the loo? Then there is the spin doctor so desperately insecure that, even though she is not named, she feels she has to drag the whole cumbersome apparatus of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission to get revenge for an "infringement of privacy".

Review

Day trip to the romantic era

Edward Greenfield

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra

WHATEVER they may think in Vienna or Berlin, there is no finer orchestra in Europe than the Royal Concertgebouw of Amsterdam. I have thought so many times, whether hearing them on their home ground in the Netherlands or on visits to London.

1826, evocatively romantic, was here given a reading which combined refinement and electric tensions. That led to Berlioz's scene inspired by Shakespeare, La Mort de Cléopâtre, his firebrand entry for the Prix de Rome.

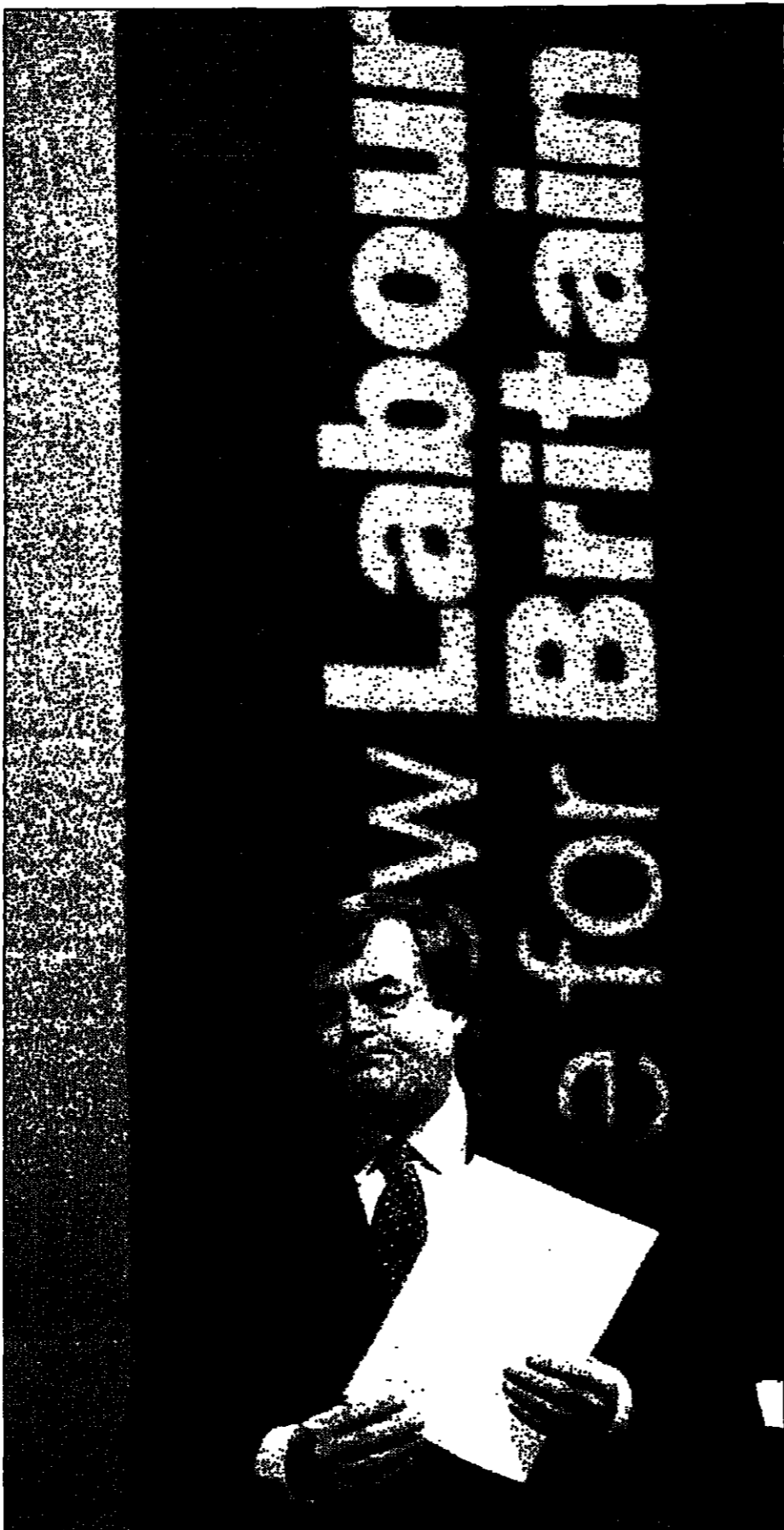
IRA 'is rethinking the use of violence' claims Bruton

David Sharrock

Ireland Correspondent

THE IRA's use of violence to remove British rule from Ireland is undergoing a "serious rethink", the Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, said yesterday.

republic at the weekend, but he said: "What we do know, however, is that there is a serious rethinking going on within the republican movement. There is a realisation that violence is self-defeating. There is a sense of that within the republican movement. Twenty-five years of violence disrupted Ireland more than any external agent."



John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, at the announcement of yesterday's result, promptly denounced by the Tories as an 'Albanian plebiscite' PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARLES

Doctors poised to operate on Yeltsin

Shift of powers to PM delayed till last minute

David Hearst in Moscow

A MEETING of Russia's top doctors last night gave the go-ahead for major heart surgery on President Boris Yeltsin, saying the lengthy preparation period had given him his best chance of surviving the operation.

A doctors' statement released by the Kremlin said Mr Yeltsin's temperature, pulse and blood pressure were normal. But the optimistic signals did not disguise the fact that the six to eight-hour operation will be a dangerous one.

operation, first announced in September, was imminent. The head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexei II, urged all believers to pray for the president, and the Russian heart surgeon, Michael DeBakey, who flew in from Houston on Sunday to confer with Russian doctors, the main artery serving the left ventricle is severely constricted in three places, and the right coronary artery is completely blocked.

err specialists will be on hand as consultants. All Russia, and particularly the Kremlin advisers, will now be on tenterhooks. Mr Yeltsin has left until the very last moment the issue of transferring power to his prime minister, Viktor Cherno

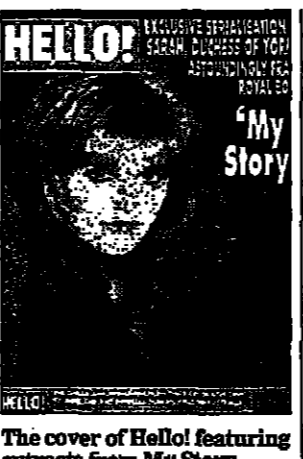
omyrdin. The decree transferring power will only be signed immediately before the president goes into the theatre. As soon as he recovers, a second decree will be signed transferring the powers back.

tion Anatoly Chubais, the presidential chief of staff who has been accused of acting as Russia's regent, will be formally bound to serve Mr Chernomyrdin, who until now has been the victim of his intrigues and appointments.

Duchess: 'I was unworthy'

Kamal Ahmed

THE DUCHESS of York has admitted that she was unfit to be a member of the royal family and that the "barely veiled" hostility of Buckingham Palace courtiers hastened the end of her marriage to Prince Andrew.



The cover of Hello! featuring extracts from My Story

sleepless night sipping brandy before the news papers were delivered to Balmoral where the royal family was on holiday. She describes Prince Charles, the Princess Royal and Prince Edward "my wide and months apart" ripping through the tabloid newspapers over breakfast "until they saw Andrew and stopped, as if never feels quite right to be gazing at your brother's wife when she hasn't all her clothes on".

The duchess says the Queen gave her a furious dressing down because of the damage the Bryan pictures did to the monarchy. "The clock was chiming nine, 10, 11. My coach was reverting to pumpkinhood before my eyes."

dured the constant scrutiny of the British press and the barely veiled hostility of the royal household, the courtiers who ran the show. Gradually, relentlessly they had beaten me down. They were killing me by inches. The duchess says the Queen gave her a furious dressing down because of the damage the Bryan pictures did to the monarchy. "The clock was chiming nine, 10, 11. My coach was reverting to pumpkinhood before my eyes."

After she heard that the pictures were being published, she spent a

Party backs Blair agenda by landslide

Leader wins 95pc of vote

Michael White

Political Editor

TONY BLAIR last night promised to do everything in his power to drive John Major from Downing Street in an early general election after a landslide vote of endorsement for his manifesto by Labour's rank-and-file membership.



Tony Blair... hailed party 'covenant with the people'

Five key pledges

- Cutting class sizes to 30 or under for five to seven-year-olds
Fast track punishment for persistent young offenders
Cut NHS waiting lists by treating an extra 100,000 patients
Get 250,000 under 25-year-olds off benefit and into work
Set tough rules for government spending and borrowing

Ballot papers dispatched: 380,688
Votes cast: 230,402
Yes: 218,023
No: 11,285
Spoiled papers: 1,093

election? You have got nothing left to do." At the heart of the policy statement, sent to 360,000 members, are Mr Blair's "five early pledges" which pollsters say are key voter priorities. Yesterday he restated four more promises that a Blair government would seek to implement.

CRISIS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

YOU CAN HELP MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Over 1 million people are fleeing their camps and homes, escaping fierce fighting and intimidation. What awaits them is cholera, hunger and fear. This dreadful crisis requires both emergency relief and an urgent campaign to tackle the root causes of this disaster.



PHOTOGRAPH: SEMAIS GONJAL

Central Africa Appeal
For instant credit card donations 0171 839 0908.
Yes, I want to support the UNA appeal and campaign in Central Africa.
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Expiry Date:
Signature:
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Address:
Postcode:
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Art wor...

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Dealer closes gallery after Turner prize-winner defects

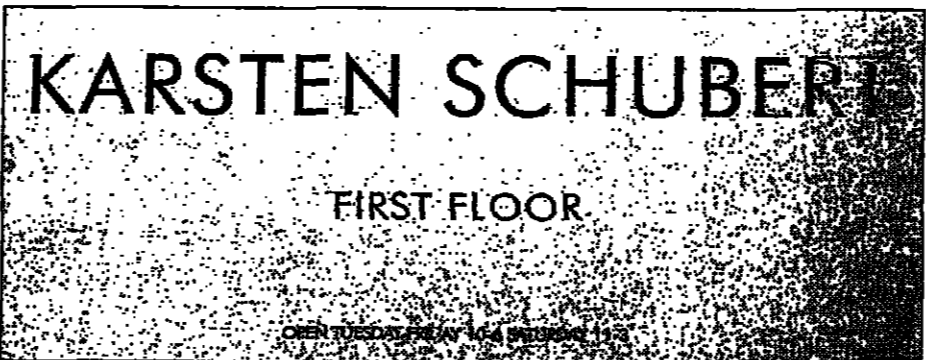


Turner prize-winner Rachel Whiteread (above) who is leaving art dealer Karsten Schubert for the bigger and better-known dealer Anthony d'Offay (right). Top, one of Mr d'Offay's West End galleries, where he also shows the likes of Andy Warhol and Gilbert and George



'It is a major, major thing that has happened. It is a stab in the back. Everyone is reeling from the shock'

— close associate of art dealer Karsten Schubert, on closure of his gallery



Art world rocked by 'bloody divorce'

Sarah Boseley

ONE of Britain's best respected contemporary art dealers announced he was closing down his gallery yesterday, after his leading light, Turner prize-winner Rachel Whiteread, defected to a rival.

The revelation of what one artist called the "bloody divorce" between Ms Whiteread and Karsten Schubert, who has represented her for some years, stunned the intimate world of contemporary art.

The third party in the triangle is a bigger and better-known art dealer still, Anthony d'Offay, who exhibits the likes of Andy Warhol and Gilbert and George at his West End galleries. He will now organise her exhibitions and sell her work.

Sympathy lay yesterday with Mr Schubert, who is considered to have thrown his all

into promoting Ms Whiteread's career as interest in her work grew, even though he represented some artists who began to feel they were not receiving his individual attention.

"It took up an enormous amount of Karsten's energies, working for Rachel," said another dealer. "It is often impossible when you are in that situation to do anything about it. On the one hand, she is your major card, and on the other hand it is becoming much too demanding."

Ms Whiteread, who won the Turner prize in 1993 for her sculpture House — a concrete cast of the insides of a two-up, two-down in East London — has a major retrospective exhibition at the Liverpool Tate and has designed a Holocaust Memorial for Vienna which has attracted much admiration. She is very much a player on the international stage.

The relationship between her and Mr Schubert was said to have been close and the severance highly emotional. There are suggestions that closing down the gallery was

Who sells who

Anthony D'Offay Gallery Artists include: Gilbert and George, Gerhard Richter

Lisson Gallery Artists: Richard Deacon, Anish Kapoor

Marlborough Galleries Artists: RB Kitaj, Frank Auerbach

White Cube Artists: Damien Hirst, Tracy Emlin, Sarah Lucas

Waddington Galleries Artists: Antoni Tapies, Julian Schnabel, Fiona Rae

Frith Street Gallery Artists: Cullum Innes, Tacta Dean

not solely a financial decision for the dealer, who represents other well-respected artists, such as Alison Wilding, Glenn Brown, Gary Hume and Zedee Jones. "People are suffering from

a huge loss of face — that such a great relationship and such great teamwork can fall apart so easily," said a colleague.

Anya Gallacio, who was represented by Mr Schubert until she left about a year ago, said most of Mr Schubert's time was taken up with Ms Whiteread, but there were plenty of other people one could deal with. "I think they had a very intense personal working relationship. He seems to have reacted very quickly. It is a bit like a bloody divorce, really, and unfortunately it's in public."

"But I'm hoping it is going to be a positive thing and that he can start again."

Martin Creed, whose show would have opened at Mr Schubert's gallery on Thursday, but will now go to the Victoria Miro Gallery in the New Year, said life was not easy for dealers, even though British contemporary art was hot news around the world.

"Britain is still a bad place for selling work — it is just to do with the conservative attitude of people. It is easier in places like Germany where

your average punter wouldn't just assume it was a load of bollocks if it was a canvas made of only one colour.

"A lot of British dealers very much like the artists. They don't all make a lot of money and they do it because they want to do it. It is more than just a financial arrangement."

Mr Schubert would not dis-

cuss the closure yesterday. "Yes, it is true," he said, "but I can't talk to you about any of this at the moment." He intends to work as a private dealer, without his own gallery space.

A spokeswoman for Anthony d'Offay said the gallery had no comment — and was not willing to allow Ms Whiteread to be contacted either.

French call for action in Zaire spurs ill Mobutu

Chris McGreal in Gisenyi, Paul Webster in Paris and John Palmer in Brussels

PRESIDENT Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire will soon return home after finishing treatment for cancer in Switzerland, his spokesman said last night — hours after France had called for immediate international intervention in his country.

Urgent contacts began between several governments over ending the conflict in eastern Zaire, and the leader of one of the main rebel factions fighting there called a three-week ceasefire to allow aid workers to evacuate refugees.

President Mobutu's spokesman, Kabuya Lumuna, said the Zairean leader had prostate cancer surgery in a Swiss clinic on August 22. "His therapy ended on October 30 and no further medical examinations are expected."

The president would be in France for a short while before returning home. He was tomorrow due to meet the United Nations special envoy, Raymond Chretien, who was expected to fly to Nice to discuss the crisis, the UN spokeswoman, Sylvana Foa, said in New York.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced or trapped by two weeks of fighting between Zairean troops and ethnic Banyamulenge Tutsis who took up arms after being threatened with expulsion from Zaire. Rwanda is believed to be backing the Tutsi rebels.

President Jacques Chirac of France and the Spanish prime minister, Jose-Maria Aznar, were due to discuss the plan for multinational intervention at a Marseille summit last night.

France already has troops on standby who could be used to establish corridors to deliver food, tents and medical aid to a million refugees in eastern Zaire. Hundreds of tons of supplies are being held at bases in neighbouring countries.

The French medical organisation, Medecins sans Frontieres, which has been forced to withdraw volunteers from the region, yesterday called

for immediate military intervention. It warned that unless rapid action was taken, thousands of refugees would die.

European Union and other western governments were last night confusedly debating their reaction to the French call. Although France appears ready to send its own forces to the region, provided the action has international backing, Belgium and some other EU governments are ready to provide only logistical support — but no ground troops — for a peacekeeping mission with a strict time limit.

Even this limited role would be conditional on any security operation having the backing of the UN, Zaire, Rwanda and the Organisation of African Unity.

The French announcement came as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, and the European Commissioner, Emma Bonino, threw their weight behind the idea of protected corridors down which the refugees could return home to Rwanda, as opposed to setting up safe areas in Zaire.

East African leaders are due to meet in Nairobi today to discuss the crisis, but Zaire has said it will not attend until Rwandan troops are withdrawn from its soil.

Laurent Kabila, leader of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, which has seized swaths of territory in eastern Zaire around Uvira, said he had called yesterday's ceasefire to allow aid workers to evacuate the refugees.

"Those who are opposed to going back to their country will be taken in charge by the international community for special assistance," he said, apparently referring to members of the defeated Rwandan army and Hutu militias who fled into Zaire after leading the genocide two years ago in which 1 million Tutsis and moderate Hutus died.

"We will give [the aid agencies] security so that they can land and use the airport at Kilimba, close to Uvira, as well as in Goma, which is completely under our control," Mr Kabila said. But he warned fighting would resume if Zaire failed to respect the ceasefire.

Leader comment, page 8

Bard on speed storms US

Ian Katz in New York

THE ACTION takes place in a violently ravaged Verona Beach. The Capulets and the Montagues are rival street gangs who pick up snacks at a hot-dog stand called Rosencrantz's. The star-crossed lovers meet at a campy disco.

This is Romeo and Juliet Nineties-style, and it is the toast of Hollywood.

Baz Luhrmann's frenetic reworking of the world's most famous love story, dubbed variously Natural Born Lovers and Shakespeare on Speed, has stunned studio bosses by roaring to the top of the US box office rankings.

With the help of a blistering rock soundtrack and MTV-style editing, the Bard beats the competition to gross \$11.6 million on its first weekend of release. "Love is alive," chimed Tom Sherak, a senior executive of 20th Century Fox,



which released the film by the Australian director of Strictly Ballroom. "Shakespeare's still No. 1 after 400 years."

Indeed it is difficult to visit an American cinema at the moment without running into him. As well as Mr Luhrmann's Romeo and Juliet, Trevor Nunn's Twelfth Night is playing to good reviews while Al Pa-

clo is still packing them in for his riff on Richard III, Looking For Richard.

At the same time, a recently discovered 1912 screen version of Richard III, the oldest American feature film in existence, is beginning a limited release, while Kenneth Branagh's Hamlet opens at Christmas.

In Hollywood, which last year enjoyed a lucrative infatuation with Jane Austen, the talk is all of the Bard's "fresh relevance" and "enduring appeal."

"When you get to a time of change — moving toward the millennium — people start to interpret classic texts again," said Mr Luhrmann, 33. "They start to look for those things that have a universal centre. And they say, 'What does it mean to us now?'"

After the film's surprise success, the industry predicts it could eclipse Franco Zeffirelli's classic 1968 screen version of Romeo and Juliet to become the highest-grossing screen adaptation of Shakespeare.

Conservative grandees ambush Howard

continued from page 1

told Mr Howard bluntly that detection and arrest were more compelling factors than sentencing when a criminal considered whether to commit further offences. He warned that the introduction of automatic life sentences for repeat rapist and violent offenders could create more killers who felt they had nothing to lose.

Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, responded last night: "Michael Howard is now in serious trouble on parts of this bill. Kenneth Baker and Douglas Hurd carry a great deal of weight within the Tory Party. For them to come out in criticism of this bill close to the election speaks volumes for the weakness of Mr Howard's case inside the Tory Party."

Labour last night abstained in the Commons second reading of the Crime (Sentences) Bill with only the Liberal Democrats voting against.



Meet Suzanne.

Suzanne wants her own business, and now she's watched the video, she knows what to do.

Suzanne isn't just a good hairdresser, she's also got a very good business head on her shoulders.

After seeing a friend go it alone, she decided it was about time she did the same.

So she asked Midland for one of their starter packs. The video included the general experiences of people who have recently started their own businesses and the whole package gave her a thorough insight into just what's involved.

Helpful as it was, it didn't solve her immediate problem — finding some original 1950s barber chairs, which according to Suzanne, are "all-the-rage".

Advertisement for 'Starting Your Business' video, featuring a video cover and contact information: 'She called 0345 40 41 42 for a starter pack.'

Always ask a waiter to make a selection from a buffet for you — it's inelegant to collect your own food. Never be seen in an apron. Always listen to your lover's sexual fantasies. Never let a man's generosity towards you falter. Serve Iranian Gold caviar when you can ... Escaping suppression, Bienvenida style

G2 page 12/13

Midland The Listening Bank Member HSBC Group. Form for requesting 'Starting Your Business' video, including fields for name, address, town, county, postcode, and telephone number.



Identification 'inconsistencies' after embassy attack

Woman on bomb charge cleared

Richard Norton-Taylor

AN OLD Bailey judge will today direct a jury to acquit a Palestinian woman who is charged with planting the car bomb that exploded outside the Israeli embassy in London in July 1994.

In a dramatic development in the month-old trial, Mr Justice Garland pointed to "serious inconsistencies" in identification evidence against Nadia Zekra, aged 48, who was arrested six months after the bombing and after a surveillance operation by the police and MI5.

"It would be dangerous in the extreme to place this case against Mrs Zekra before a jury," the judge said. "I have no hesitation whatsoever in withdrawing the case."

Outside the court Mrs Zekra, of Kensington, west London, who has two children and is university-educated, expressed her relief. "I'm innocent," she added. "I knew nothing about what they were talking about."

She spent nearly five months in Holloway prison before being released on bail. Neil O'May, her solicitor, said: "It was incredible that the case against her was not stopped earlier."

The judge made the ruling

after Helena Kennedy QC, Mrs Zekra's counsel, pointed to contradictory evidence on the bomber's appearance given by Constable Ian Duncan of the police diplomatic protection branch, who was outside the embassy at the time, and David Goran, an Israeli embassy security guard.

Mr Duncan described the suspect as a woman between 5ft 7in and 5ft 10ins tall and of substantial build. Mrs Zekra, of slight build, was shown in court to be 5ft 11in.

To place this case before jury 'would be dangerous in the extreme'

Mr Goran described the suspect as a woman in her sixties with wavy grey hair and, in the judge's words, "a wrinkled face like an old woman".

Both men had seen the bomber only fleetingly. The identification parade was six months later. "The observation was too brief and the gap too long," said Ms Kennedy.

The judge noted: "The parade was made up with ladies hastily recruited from Harrods, and because they were

wearing uniforms they had to put on coats and sit down."

Mr Duncan told the court he was approached by a woman who had parked an Audi car near the embassy. She said she had a present for someone. She had a Harrods bag and said she had been asked to return in five minutes. Within 10 minutes the car exploded.

Ms Kennedy referred yesterday to an entirely "innocent association" between one of Mrs Zekra's sons and another defendant, Jawad Botmeh, aged 28, of Bloomsbury, central London.

Mr Botmeh, Mahmoud Abu-Wardeh, aged 25, of Putney, south London, and Samar Alami, aged 30, of South Kensington, have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to cause explosions.

Earlier, Detective Superintendent Bill Emerton said there was "an intelligence vacuum" surrounding the bombing, which took place shortly after an attack on a Jewish target in Argentina.

The embassy bomb exploded just after midday on July 26, 1994. The court has heard that it caused damage estimated at £5 million. The next night a bomb exploded outside offices of the Jewish Philanthropic Organisation for Israel and the Middle East in Finchley, north London.



Nadia Zekra... Spent nearly five months in Holloway jail. 'I'm innocent. I knew nothing about what they were talking about' PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Action urged over danger fireworks

Pressure mounts on Government after two men killed in accidents

Stuart Millar

THE Government yesterday came under renewed pressure for a review of fireworks legislation amid growing public fears over safety.

After two men died and another was seriously injured in three accidents over the weekend, politicians and campaigners demanded action to stem the import of dangerous fireworks.

Import controls on fireworks were lifted in 1993. Since then firework injuries have risen from 1,000 a year to 1,500.

Mike Hanson, head of trading standards at Barnsley

council, said there was evidence that more dangerous fireworks were being sold because there was no proper licensing system. "It is time to look at whether a new system should be put in place."

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, said: "These latest tragic incidents underline the folly of government deregulation. Against the advice of safety experts, the firework industry and trading standards officers, the Department of Trade and Industry swept away import rules that required specific licences for imported fireworks.

Meanwhile, it emerged that the managing director of one of the country's biggest suppliers of display fireworks resigned from an industry

working party after members, including representatives from the Health and Safety Executive, refused to consider the introduction of training for display organisers. Bill Decker, who runs Pains Fireworks in Wiltshire, said he had been disgusted by the attitudes of members.

The revelation came as lessons resumed at Hazlemere primary school, in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. David Hattersley, the head teacher, was killed on Friday when a mortar-style firework exploded in his face.

Denise Timcke, who was in New York when her husband, Steven, was killed by a Chinese firework in front of his two young sons, returned home to Kent yesterday.

Richard Nocton, aged 39, was yesterday in hospital in Wiltshire after being hit by a firework.

Disabled 'losers in share deal'

Halifax and Alliance & Leicester bonus plans 'are discrimination'

Stuart Millar

THOUSANDS of severely disabled savers will not receive bonus shares from building societies converting to banks under deals which campaigners say may be illegal.

Eligible members of the Halifax, and the Alliance & Leicester, will receive a £13 billion share hand-out when the societies are floated next year. Savers can expect about £1,000 each.

Under the societies' plans, bonus shares will only be made available to the first named investor on each account. Each investor will receive only one set of shares,

regardless of how many accounts they hold.

But disability rights groups yesterday accused the societies of illegally discriminating against severely disabled customers who rely on other people to administer their accounts. In many of those cases, the carer is the first named investor. Where a carer also has a personal account with the same society, only one set of shares will be paid out.

Severely disabled people living in residential homes where one member of staff runs the accounts of all residents will be the worst affected. Some local authorities fear they may be liable to charges of financial misman-

agement. Tom Clarke, shadow minister for the disabled, said yesterday the schemes could be illegal under the Disability Discrimination Act which becomes law next month.

"I am disappointed that both the Alliance & Leicester and the Halifax appear to be ready to ignore the interests of many of their disabled customers. It is time that the building societies put a little more effort into ensuring that honest investors get their fair dues."

Alastair Burt, the disability minister, told Mr Clarke: "The payment of bonus shares being made only once to each named member... may well result in discrimination... in that a disabled person may not receive the benefits of membership in the same way as a non-disabled person."

John Boyle, the manager of the Buntingford House residential home in Birmingham, said his staff controlled the Halifax and Alliance & Leicester accounts of 29 residents. "These people have held their accounts for over eight years but they will only receive one set of shares between them. The only thing they have done wrong is not being able to look after their own money."

Gary Marsh, the Halifax's head of corporate affairs, said: "The share distribution scheme is the fairest we could provide under the terms of current legislation." The Alliance & Leicester, said: "Of course it appears unfair to some people. But any other scheme would not have been advantageous in the long run, and the directors have a duty to return to members as much money as they can."

Advertisement for Gateway 2000 PS-120 Multimedia PC. Features include Intel Pentium processor, 16MB cache, 256KB pipeline burst cache, 3.5" diskette drive, Toshiba 8-speed CD-ROM, Western Digital 2.5GB ELIDE Hard Drive, integrated Creative Labs FM sound card, ALC Lansing ACS41 Speakers, integrated ATI GT 3D 2MB SGRAM Graphics Accelerator, 15" CrystalScan Monitor, Desktop/Mini Tower Case, Windows 95 125 Anykey Keyboard, Microsoft Mouse, MS Windows 95, MS Generations Software Bundle, Games Bundle, MS Encarta '96 (US Version), 3 Year Limited Warranty. Price: £1099 (£1325.40 inc. VAT and delivery). Contact: 0800 82 2000. Website: http://www.gw2k.com.

Parents brand building society treatment of handicapped son a 'disgrace'

MATTHEW Ward should have relished the dash by building societies to convert to banks, writes Stuart Millar. At 23, with severe mental disabilities, he should have gained £2,000 in bonus shares from his savings accounts with the Alliance & Leicester and the Halifax.

Instead, he will get just a fraction of that. His parents, Ray and Hazel, from St Albans, Hertfordshire, opened an A&L account for him in 1990, and over the years around £500 went into it. Originally it was in Matthew's name, but last year his mother became the named investor after a wrangle over tax on savings interest.

"We didn't think anything about it," Mr Ward said yesterday. "They shut one account and opened the other the same day so we thought it would be the same. Then we found that Matthew would not qualify for bonus shares, and we would only receive one set because his mother also has an account there."

The second blow came when the family discovered Matthew would not receive bonus shares on his Halifax account. It is administered by the manager of the residential home in Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire, where he lives.



Matthew Ward, disabled loser in 'dash for cash', and his mother Hazel PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

"Again he loses because the manager also runs accounts for other people in the hostel, so they will only get one set of shares between them."

Mr Ward said the money would have been used to send Matthew on holiday which, with carers' pay, can cost £1,000 for five days in Britain. He said the building societies' treatment of the severely

disabled was disgraceful. "They cannot exercise any choice over how their accounts are run, so the building societies have exercised choice for them without discussing it... with the result that they have been completely disenfranchised from the bonus share offer."

He dismissed claims that it would be impossible for the

societies to identify disabled account holders. "All they have to do is place advertisements asking them to take their pension books into their branch. That way the onus is on the carer to make sure the person gets the money they are entitled to. But the societies have chosen not to because they are too concerned with cutting costs."

Father and son could face huge bill after fight forced airliner to divert

A FATHER and son who forced a holiday flight from Tenerife to Birmingham to divert to Portugal after a mid-air brawl could face a bill of thousands of pounds from the airline.

The father, identified only as Mr Rogers, aged in his 60s and from Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was expected to leave Lisbon with his son yesterday evening after being ejected from the Boeing 757 late on Friday night.

The Airtours charter flight 586, carrying about 200 holidaymakers, was one hour into its four-and-a-half hour journey when the pilot decided to divert to Lisbon because of the fight on board.

Mr Rogers, his wife and

son, aged in his 30s, and another man in his late 20s, were removed from the aircraft when Portuguese police met the plane at Lisbon airport. Father and son were questioned and released without charge.

The flight, which had to burn off hundreds of gallons of fuel so it could land, was continued its journey but was delayed by more than four hours.

A spokesman for Airtours said yesterday that no other passenger was involved in the brawl, which was described as "domestic". Alcohol was believed to have played a part.

The spokesman added: "We are looking at the possibility of bringing a civil case against these men for

the cost of diverting the flight. "This was a very serious incident. A pilot will not make that sort of diversion unless the situation is of a very serious nature and he believes the safety of other passengers, his crew and the aircraft itself is at risk."

"The plane would have had to burn off a lot of fuel to enable it to land safely and then there is the landing and handling costs in Portugal." The costs could run into thousands of pounds, the spokesman said. "Obviously these people did not think of that when they decided to start their fight."

Airtours told Mrs Rogers and the family flight would have to find their

own way home from Portugal. They arrived in Britain on Sunday on a British Airways flight.

Mr Rogers and his son contacted the British embassy who helped them arrange for money to be sent to pay for their flights home. A spokesman for the embassy said he believed they were returning yesterday evening.

In an unrelated incident, the family's baggage is believed to have been impounded at Gatwick airport. Customs officials yesterday refused to confirm reports that the bags contained no clothes or souvenirs, just alcohol and tobacco far exceeding the legal limit for duty-free goods.

How M... Aspiring M... Young...

كلمة في العلم

The man accused of taking part in a plot to cripple the banking system has found business and crime lucrative. Christopher Elliott reports

# How Noye cashed in on twin careers



Kenneth Noye in 1985, when he was acquitted of murdering a policeman and was jailed for the Brink's Mat robbery

**W**HILE old villains cash in on their notoriety with book and film deals, Kenneth Noye is still out there doing it — allegedly.

Since he was acquitted of the murder in 1985 of Detective Constable Kenneth Fordham, the undercover policeman whom he stabbed in the grounds of his Kent home believing him to be an intruder, Noye has slipped effortlessly into the role of public enemy No 1.

He was born the son of a GPO general manager and a greyhound stadium manager. After he left school he worked as a driver pursuing a parallel criminal career in which he acquired a record for stealing cars and shoplifting.

His business sense was keen. He bought his own lorry, then a fleet, then a yard. He sold a third of it for the price he had paid for the whole lot.

He then sustained his twin careers in a series of property and jewellery deals, some legitimate, some not; all were lucrative.

His wife Brenda, the mother of his two children, is as loyal after 26 years of marriage as she ever was, despite a series of revelations about her husband's business and private lives involving mistresses and crime.

The couple bought a luxurious home in Kent "where the children could grow up without roaming the streets and sniffing glue" according to Brenda, who still lives in a £600,000 house in Kent. Noye also became a freemason, and was never slow to try the handshake out on detectives he met.

After the Brink's Mat raid in 1983, Noye came under sus-



Detective Constable Kenneth Fordham, above, whom Noye admitted stabbing to death, and detectives on the Brink's Mat case look for fingerprints



picion. It was a difficult problem for Scotland Yard as he was also used by senior detectives as a "mole". His handlers thought he gave some very good information. But there were other detectives who thought he was taking the "yard" to the cleaners.

It was while he was under surveillance that he came across DC Fordham and killed him.

However, after his acquittal for murder — he admitted the killing but pleaded self-defence — he was jailed for 14 years for being a key figure in the handling of the £26 million proceeds of the Brink's Mat robbery but served his time as a model prisoner, finishing his time at Swaleside prison in Kent.

He was released in 1994 and has rarely been out of the headlines since.

Police in the USA and Britain became interested in Noye, now aged 52, and he began to feature in their surveillance logs.

Then came a fresh twist when he was named in connection with the murder of Stephen Cameron, a 21-year-old electrician who had apparently been the victim of a road rage attack in May this year. Noye was identified as someone Kent police wanted to interview in connection with the killing.

Mr Cameron was driving his fiancée, Danielle Cable, in a van on an A23 slip road in Kent when an L-registered Land Rover Discovery swerved in front of it. The two vehicles stopped and an argument began with the driver of the Land Rover, described as aged between 30 and 50. The older man produced a knife

and stabbed Mr Cameron to death before driving off.

A month later Noye's name leaked out in the press as being a suspect. Police confirmed they wanted to speak to him in connection with the killing and appealed for Noye to come forward. He has not.

Since then police have followed up reports that he has fled to Northern Cyprus, Marbella, Tenerife and most recently St Petersburg.

There have been persistent reports that he has returned to Britain on a number of occasions, at least once to see his alleged mistress, Sue McNicol-Douch.

Three months ago his wife told the Daily Mail: "I have no idea where he is and I don't want to know. As far as I am concerned he is better off out of it. My husband is an innocent man."

## Aspiring MP stole cash to support image

**Staff Reporter**

**D**AVID Hurst stole £31,000 from his local party to bolster his image as Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate for Bath by moving to a better flat and buying smarter clothes, a court heard yesterday.

In his role as party treasurer he signed cheques to himself and forged the signature of another party officer to transfer money to his own account on 42 occasions.

Yesterday he sat with his head bowed throughout the hearing at Bristol crown court as Judge Colin Willis jailed him for 15 months.

He told him: "This was a gross breach of trust continued over a considerable

period of time." Prosecutor Martin Pictou said a total of £31,014 had been siphoned off.

Hurst, aged 35, of Bath, had admitted four specimen charges of forgery asking for 38 other offences to be considered.

A self-employed book-keeper, Hurst was made treasurer of the city's Labour Party in 1992. He rose through the ranks and was chosen to fight

Bath in July 1995.

But two months later he resigned from both positions after he was exposed for claiming dole and housing benefits for four years while working. He was arrested in June after an inquiry by local party officers found more than £30,000 missing from constituency funds.

Neil Ford, defending, said Hurst began forging cheques

when he found himself in debt. The fraud, he said, coincided with Hurst's political ascent.

"It was all done to pay off his debts and rather pathetically support the image. There was a pressure to live up to their expectations."

Hurst moved into Marlborough Buildings overlooking a park in one of the salubrious districts of Bath where his earnings did not even cover the rent. The court was told he spent thousands of pounds on the flat.

In desperation he resorted to gambling in an attempt to win the stolen money back.

He would have faced a near-impossible task in Bath, a seat won by the Liberal Democrat, Don Foster, from the Tory party chairman Chris Patten at the last election. Labour had only 4,102 votes, less than 8 per cent of the total.

## Cell death man 'beaten'

### Inquest told that body of robbery suspect was unrecognisable

**David Ward**

**T**HE twin sister of a man found dead in a police cell claimed yesterday that he had been assaulted by police officers after being arrested on a robbery charge.

Stephanie Lightfoot-Bennett told an inquest in Manchester: "I was horrified by the condition of his body. I didn't recognise him at all."

Leon Patterson, a heroin addict and prison absconder from north London, died four years ago while being held in police cells in Denton, Greater Manchester, because of the shortage of prison accommodation following the Strangeways prison riot.

The inquest is the third to

be opened on Mr Patterson. The first, in February 1993, was halted when it was discovered that a juror was married to a local police officer.

The jury at the second, held in April 1993, returned a verdict of unlawful killing which was then quashed by the High Court in 1994.

The hearing is being monitored by Inquest, a campaign group concerned with deaths in custody and the inquest system.

Ms Lightfoot-Bennett claimed that Mr Patterson, aged 32, had been assaulted by police officers who had neglected the fact he was seriously ill.

She saw bruises on his face when she went to identify him at a hospital.

"I said to them, 'You've brought the wrong body'. It was clear that apart from the injuries he had been seriously ill for a period of time."

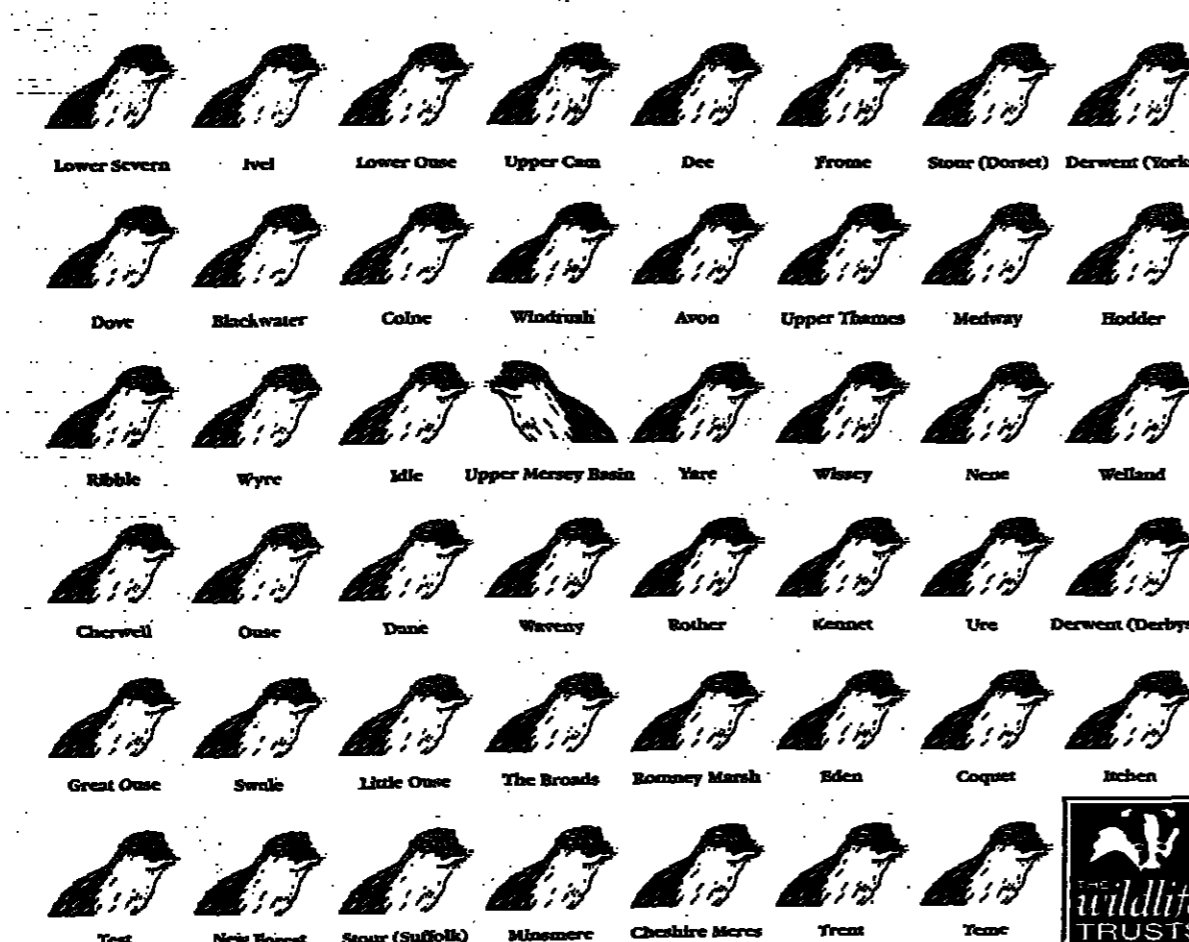
"The police inspector kept telling me the injuries were self-inflicted. He kept saying he had done them to himself."

"I thought it was insensitive he should be saying this while I was trying to identify my twin brother."

Having given the jury details of the previous inquests, the coroner, Leonard Gorodkin, said he would be calling medical experts to try to discover a possible cause of death. The second hearing had been told the cause was "unascertainable".

Mr Patterson's family have made an official complaint over his treatment in custody, and the results of a Police Complaints Authority investigation have been made available to the coroner.

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The Wildlife Trusts, Prospect DCS26, Lincoln, LN5 7SR

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I enclose a donation of \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to RSPB or Wildlife Trusts and send separate and send with this form to The Wildlife Trusts, Dept 1000, Prospect DCS26, Lincoln, LN5 7SR. Alternatively telephone 01522 574 971 between 9-5 weekdays.

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Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Reg. Charity No. 287296.

There are 47 Wildlife Trusts, working locally to ensure a national future for all Britain's wildlife.

## Union hopes for early end to Ridings school strike

**John Carvel**  
Education Editor

**P**ROSPECTS for a peaceful reopening of the Ridings school in Halifax improved yesterday, when the union leader at the centre of strike action against disruptive pupils promised to co-operate to make the school a success.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said he would be seeking to develop a positive relationship with the new head, Peter Clark, in the hope the strike could be lifted when children return tomorrow.

Although Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, is expected to deliver a damning report to the governors today, it appears unlikely that the Government will send in a "hit squad" to take over management from Calderdale local education authority.

However, little progress was made yesterday at Mantun junior school in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, which closed last week in response to a NAS-UWT strike over the alleged behaviour of a 10-year-old boy.

"We are digging in for a long fight," Mr de Gruchy said after the governors decided not to change a decision against expelling the boy. There was little hope of progress unless the boy's mother decided to withdraw him or the Government intervened.

A disruptive pupil on trial placement at Yarlley school in Birmingham attacked a boy of 13 in the playground with a piece of wood, breaking his arm. The city's education department is to investigate the attack and circumstances of the boy's transfer to a mainstream school.

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Growers and makers rally against smoking curbs

# Tobacco subsidies split Commission

John Palmer in Brussels

**T**HE European Commission is being split by demands for tougher measures to discourage smoking and phase out the massive subsidies paid to European tobacco growers.

The issue is expected to come to a head in Brussels tomorrow when the commission will be called on to take drastic action to reduce the 500,000 EU deaths a year from tobacco-related illnesses.

The drive for radical reform of the common agricultural policy on tobacco is led by the Irish commissioner for social affairs, Padraig Flynn. He will meet fierce opposition from the tobacco-producing states — notably Greece and Italy — and the tobacco multi-nationals, which have been flexing their lobbying power in Brussels to block any move to raise taxes on cigarettes, reduce nicotine levels or impose stronger health warnings on tobacco products.

In a confidential paper circulated to his colleagues, Mr Flynn points out that the EU spends more than £10 billion a year combating tobacco consumption and £700 million propping up tobacco production.

"This apparent contradiction is the source of considerable public criticism," he argues. "The commission has an obligation to respond to the huge threat to public health from smoking."

Initiatives to reduce the demand for tobacco and protect people from secondary smoke are not being matched by proposals for eliminating subsidies or production quotas for tobacco producers, he adds.

Mr Flynn challenges his colleagues to say whether they think there should be "greater consistency and coherence between community policies on tobacco production and tobacco consumption."

In particular he suggests the commission should support phasing out of production subsidies over a period of years and the redirection of aid to encourage crop diversification and rural development in affected regions.

The extent of the commission's differences became public yesterday when the farm commissioner, Franz Fischler, warned that phasing out subsidies could cost many jobs.

"This is a debate we will be having internally this week and I am not going to be drawn into public comment now," he said.

"The debate will be about questions of principle, such as ending subsidised production, but I would point out that this could cost 120,000 jobs among tobacco producers and in the rural areas affected."

Aware of the mounting pressure for tougher action, the commission's once-powerful agricultural directorate-general is working on a plan to reduce but not eliminate subsidies.

"This may include switching support from low grade to better quality tobacco and tightening measures against fraud in the tobacco sector."

"It is all very well arguing for us to stop subsidising tobacco, but there are areas of Greece, for example, where there appear to be no viable alternative crops which can be grown," a commission agricultural official said.

Meanwhile the international tobacco companies are mobilising themselves to block any tougher anti-smoking legislation.

"If all the measures being discussed in Brussels were to be introduced it would be a nightmare for us," a company executive said yesterday.

The companies will hope that, as in the past, they can rely on a few EU governments, led by the British, to block any tightening of advertising guidelines or nicotine and tar limits.

# Serbs buck the trend as ex-communists ousted

Julian Borger in Belgrade

**P**RELIMINARY results yesterday from Sunday's elections showed a significant swing against the former communist government in Romania and Bulgaria, but Slobodan Milosevic's regime in Yugoslavia again showed itself impervious to the region's political currents and strengthened its control.

With most of the ballots counted yesterday afternoon, Romania's ruling Party for Social Democracy had secured only 22 per cent of the vote. The centrist and social democrat opposition now look well placed to form a coalition government.

In the parallel presidential vote, Ion Iliescu, a former communist who has run the country for the past seven years, held a five-point lead over his liberal challenger, Emil Constantinescu. He faces a second round on November 17.

Bulgaria's reformist opposition easily captured the country's presidency. Petar Stoyanov, a liberal lawyer, beat Ivan Marazov, the Socialist culture minister, by 20 points in their run-off.

The post is mainly ceremonial, and Mr Stoyanov will wield far less power than the prime minister, Zhan Vidanov, a conservative former communist. But the scale of the setback will put more pressure on Mr Vidanov at a time of economic crisis and doubt whether Bulgaria has sufficient foreign reserves to last the winter.

Only the Serbian president, Mr Milosevic, and his wife Mirjana Markovic, defied the trend. With more than half the votes counted, their United Left alliance of socialists and communists looked set to win a clear majority in the Yugoslav federal parliament, representing Serbia and Montenegro.

Zajedno (Together), an opposition alliance of liberals and nationalists, slumped to 23 per cent. The biggest surprise was a strong showing by the extreme Serb nationalist Vojislav Seselj, whose Radical Party, standing alone, won 18 per cent of the vote.

Together with the ex-communist ruling party in Montenegro, the Serbian left is now likely to command a two-thirds majority in the federal parliament, possibly helping Mr Milosevic to catapult himself from the Serbian to the federal presidency.

His dominance seems to have little to do with the state of the economy. Red Cross figures show that nearly a third of the population are living below the bread line, the lifting of trade sanctions has not stopped the fall in living standards, and many public-sector workers have not been paid for months.

Diplomats and political analysts attribute the scale of the Milosevic win to the ruling party's efficiency in mobilising voters, its rigid control over the state media, and the fact that the main challenger, Dragoslav Avramovic, withdrew from the Zajedno coalition, under mysterious circumstances, less than a month before the vote.

Other Zajedno leaders claim that the regime's secret police blackmailed him into pulling out.



Tsereteli's 300ft Peter the Great on the Moscow River. His patron, the Moscow mayor, sees himself as a modern Peter

# Moscow's monumental follies

**David Hearst tells how the city's heritage has been damaged to accommodate the ersatz art of Zurab Tsereteli**

**F**OR MORE than 30 years the great and the good have been caught looking dubiously at his work, unsure how to react. He has been pictured with George Bush, Bill Clinton, Javier Pérez de Cañal. He has painted Benetton's Thatcher.

His favourite subject, St George spearing a pre-slitted dragon with a massive tooth-pick, stands outside the United Nations, all over his native Georgia, and at the Victory Park war memorial in Moscow.

There will be waterfalls around it. It will be a harmony of sound and colour. There will be a bridge over there. We make a yacht club here," he says, pointing to the poor Moscow rowing club, "and in this, houses around here. There will be a Peter the Great museum and a restaurant called Petrovski."

It's a factory that is churning these works out. The house is covered in his oil paintings. They are all reminiscent of some of the Great on an artificial island in the Moscow River. This is the leader to whom the mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov — the man who commissions all Mr Tsereteli's work — likes to compare himself.

He picks up the telephone. It's the mayor's office. "Show Yuri Mikhailovich (Luzhkov), there is a good article in Rossijski Vestnik. It seems it's a real professional, somebody who really understands what art is..."

Mr Tsereteli does not get a good press. His previous creation, a watercourse he created by opening up the Neghinaya River alongside the Kremlin walls, has been dubbed a Jacuzzi. In it, figures from Russia's folk tales — a bear, a five-third and an old man with a golden fish — stand on the river bottom, which is lined with multicoloured mosaics. The golden fish is a fairy fish, which fulfills the fantastic desires of its owner.

Mr Tsereteli has become the golden fish of Mr Luzhkov and Mr Yeltsin, adorning their capital in the twinkling of an eye. Apart from the small question of taste, the problem with this work is the setting: to build it he destroyed the wrought-iron fence of the Alexandrovski Garden, between Manege Square and the Kremlin walls, a world heritage site protected by Unesco.

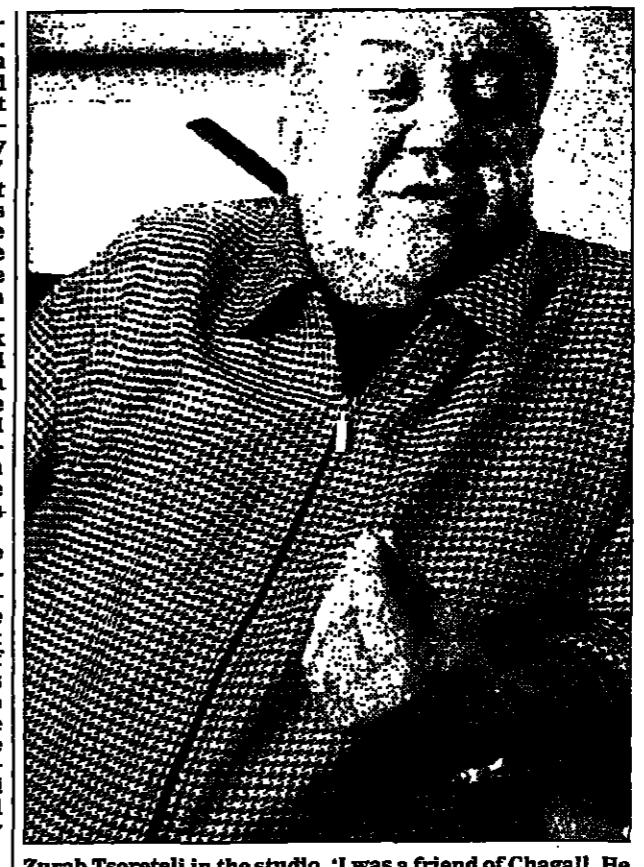
The director of the Moscow State Institute of Art Sciences, Professor Alexei Komech, is appalled.

"It seems we are speaking about two different epochs when we talk of the communists and the capitalists: the words are different but their attitude towards old Moscow is the same. They think that Mos-

cow is in ruins, that she is deprived of technical progress, and that she must be reconstructed."

Mr Tsereteli brushes off the criticism as envy. "I was a friend of Chagall. He was also sworn at. All people of talent were hated and thrown out of here. Their masterpieces went to other countries — to France. That's why we are backwards now, because there is no museum of modern art."

No prize for guessing Mr Tsereteli's next creation.



Zurab Tsereteli in the studio. 'I was a friend of Chagall. He was also sworn at. All people of talent were thrown out.'

# Pupils launch campaign to end violence in schools

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

**F**RENCH secondary school pupils will launch a £30,000 national campaign against violence in schools tomorrow, featuring posters, stickers, meetings and a telephone hotline.

The government-funded campaign, called Respect after a rap hit last year by Alliance Ethnik — was inspired by three teenagers shocked by the knife murder of a 14-year-old at the start of term in Marseille.

"We don't have the answer but we have the firm desire to act. We are calling on everyone to break the chain of violence," says Massicot, aged 16, said yesterday.

Mr Massicot, one of the three pupils elected to the national education council — which advises the education ministry — said he hoped the Respect campaign would result in an "anti-violence charter".

Reports of attacks on teachers and pupils in French schools have increased in the past year, prompting strikes and demonstrations. Last spring, after a headmaster was fatally stabbed, teachers were offered a telephone hotline and training courses in dealing with violence.

The pupils' initiative was sparked by the murder of Nicolas Bourgat, aged 14, by a classmate. All French secondary schools suspended teaching on September 20 to organise discussions about violence.

The campaign includes 60,000 posters, one design featuring the Marseille teenager and the words "Nicolas, killed with a knife, just like that."

They will be distributed to schools with 50,000 stickers showing two clenched fists pressing against one another, and the slogan: "Respect: it's stronger than violence."

# Spanish trial for Argentine killers

A mother who lost a husband and two sons seeks justice.

Marlise Simons reports in Madrid

**A**LMOST every day Esperanza Labrador needs to unlock her grief by crying a little.

Her husband and two sons were killed 20 years ago and their killers are still free. Then there are the words that haunt her from the day the Argentine military handed over two of the three bodies: "This has been a regrettable mistake."

Today Mrs Labrador, aged 74, lives in her native Spain. But the killings took place in Rosario, Argentina, in 1976 when the military was fighting leftwing insurgents, and, in the process, sometimes kidnapping and killing civilians.

After 20 years of silence, she has at last told her story to a judge.

Last month a federal judge in Spain opened a criminal investigation into the torture, disappearance, and killing of 320 Spaniards in Argentina between 1976 and 1983. He has charged 97 military and police officers and wants to interrogate them in Spain or in Argentina.

A parallel investigation focuses on the abduction of 54 children of the Spanish victims, who remain missing. Some babies born in prison are said to have been registered as the children of military and police officers.

Judge Baltasar Garzon has invoked international law to argue that "crimes against humanity" like the ones he is pursuing in this case can be tried anywhere.

Experts at the UN tribunal on war crimes in The Hague

said the arguments made by the judge had been applied in the pursuit of Nazi criminals.

Judge Garzon said he did not expect that any of the Argentine suspects he has summoned would appear in Madrid, but he intended to proceed, using evidence from witnesses and documents.

"We are still at an early stage," he said. "Where appropriate, we will issue arrest warrants, which will then become international arrest warrants." The accused would be liable to arrest outside Argentina.

Alicia Pierini, Argentina's undersecretary for human rights, has said that her government will not co-operate. "Because the military leaders of that time were tried in 1985 and 1986, imprisoned, and then pardoned in 1989 by the current president, Carlos Saul Menem, Argentina says the chapter is closed."

It is far from closed for Mrs Labrador.

The family emigrated to Argentina in the 1960s. The sons, Miguel Angel, aged 36, and Palmito, aged 29, worked with their father.

"Miguel Angel's sin was to teach evening literacy classes in a slum," his mother said. He disappeared in September 1976.

Then, one night in November, more than 20 hooded men burst into their house. "They were screaming, 'Everybody on the floor,' she recalled. "They were kicking us. They made us sign cheques. They yelled, 'We're killing Palmito!'"

"They killed not only Palmito but also her husband Victor, aged 55."

Mrs Labrador and her daughter Manuela fled to Spain. Since then she has travelled to and from Argentina hoping for news of Miguel Angel. — New York Times.

# Crisis deepens as coup threat grows Praying for peace in Mobutu's shadow

Chris McGreal in Gisenyi on a nation which desperately wants change but also finds itself paralysed by fear of what will happen if its much-loathed president dies soon

**N**EXT year was supposed to be Mobutu Sésé Séloko's year. His main accomplishment as Zaire's president since 1965 may have been making his compatriots poorer, hungrier and more embittered, but there was every prospect that he would win an election he did not even want to hold.

That was until last month. Now Mr Mobutu is ailing in his French Riviera villa while civil war is eating away the anatomy of Zaire. He may have to watch helplessly while the country he claims only he can hold together crumbles apart spectacularly.

That is, if he lives long enough.

Since surgery in Switzerland in August for prostate cancer, the Zairean leader has remained under treatment. It is one of the paradoxes of capital demanding an end to Mr Mobutu's rule. Now the popular hope is that he sur-



vives long enough for a smooth transition.

When rumours of Mr Mobutu's death ran through Kinshasa last month, thousands left the streets and took shelter in their homes. People knew what to expect if it was true: almost certainly the army would take it as an excuse to rampage across the country.

One of Mr Mobutu's bitter rivals, the former prime minister Etienne Tshisekedi, appeared on television saying he was praying the president would not die soon. Few would have imagined it, after what Mr Mobutu has done to his people.

The treasury coffers emptied years ago as Mr Mobutu fashioned a country where it was all but impossible for most people to survive without queuing every opportunity to make money. Civil servants on salaries of just 70p a month have not been paid for most of this year.

The result is a breakdown of infrastructure and central government. Cars have all but disappeared from Kisangani, once the capital of the north, because there are no roads left on which to deliver petrol. Bicycles fill the streets.

Whenever the view at home, for years Mr Mobutu was praised in Europe and the United States for various Western-friendly acts, such as allowing his country to be used as a base for US-sponsored UNITA rebels in Angola, and supporting France's neo-colonial military excursions.

In return, there was always

a helping hand from outside if his power looked threatened. World Bank loans flowed into Zaire's treasury and out into Mr Mobutu's pocket. Rarely were they repaid.

Only at the end of the cold war did Mr Mobutu come under any pressure to change his ways — and he rose to the challenge. He turned the country's politicians against one another, tying up the transition process in knots.

Seven prime ministers have come and gone since the transition began. More than 400 political parties are expected to register for next year's elections in a country which six years ago was a one-party state. In such political chaos, Mr Mobutu's portrayal of himself as the single cohesive force in Zaire gave him a shot at victory in presidential elections planned for next year.

Part of his strength has been his utter contempt for his opponents. When things went looking difficult for him three years ago, he was asked why he did not take his vast fortunes and retire to the south of France. He replied that he had thought about it, but considered others so unworthy of power that he enjoyed keeping them at bay.

Sadly for Zaire, even many of Mr Mobutu's detractors would agree with his assessment of what is known, usually derisively, as the "political class". Most politicians identify themselves in relation to Mr Mobutu, partly because he sets the agenda and partly because most of them

have served under him.

In the process, he has ensured that no one has become powerful enough to challenge him. The present prime minister, Kengo wa Dondo, was acceptable because he lacks a power base and had a Polish grandmother and a Polish father, barring him from becoming president under the present constitution.

The lack of an obvious political alternative to Mr Mobutu encouraged rumours of a military coup as soon as it was known he was seriously ill. They re-emerged last week when the army chief of staff, General Eluki Monga Aundu, blamed the military's pathetic performance in eastern Zaire on the prime minister.

The accusation was misplaced. The rot was introduced by Mr Mobutu, but the general's comments were a warning that the military will be an important factor, if not the decisive one, in deciding what happens post-Mobutu.

It may also have been General Eluki's own bid for prominence, as he is one of a number of generals intent on protecting their huge wealth. Most are Ngabandi, like Mr Mobutu, and they include the civil guard commander General Kpama Barankota Kata.

But a coup could encourage more rebellions across the country by people fearful that the army is intent on perpetuating Mr Mobutu's repression. That could spell the end of Zaire as a state.

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US ELECTIONS: Counting the cost of a last-minute slump

Clinton faces a hostile Congress

The Washington Post

David Broder

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton faces the prospect of starting a second term with a Republican Congress little changed in composition from the one he has fought against for two years...

And enough of the 70 House Republican freshmen who swept Democrats out of power in 1994 are winning reelection battles to give the House Speaker, Newt Gingrich, a second chance...

The White House, which had masterfully controlled the political news agenda, lost the battle just as Mr Clinton launched his closing drive. The rush of disclosures about...

beginning to chip away. A senior Democrat quipped: "God intended for this election to be held October 29, not November 5..."

Florida and its 25 electoral votes. The president has made inroads in the Hispanic community and through the Medicare issue which affects the huge retired population...

"Dole has been an unacceptable option for close to two-thirds of the people all along," one analyst said. "The more they've heard about the Democrats this week, the worse a Clinton vote has looked..."

jected Mr Clinton falling just short of 50 per cent, with Mr Dole about 11 points back and Perot, Nader and the minor parties drawing in the mid-teens...

good as Republican chances in Arkansas, Georgia and Louisiana. If the Senate ratio shifts much, it is likely to be toward the Republicans...

'God intended for this election to be held October 29 not November 5', quipped one Democrat as it became clear that Clinton's support was chipping away



President Bill Clinton, silhouetted by stage lights, rallies the faithful in Union, New Jersey

Bill's new campaign: for immortality

Comment

Maureen Dowd

BILL CLINTON is not worried about Bob Dole lurking around the clock from bowling alleys to diners, looking for even fewer people at stranger hours...

social climbs and plays the Hollywood groupie, so he is the only president who feels the need to dramatise his job description...

In a way that has more than doubled the life expectancy for people with HIV and AIDS in only four years...

hands. After an El Paso rally, he was so eager to get close to the faithful that he stepped forward, inside the bottom rope...

Poll snapshots

Greasy polls shrink the gap

A REUTER poll has Bob Dole only 3.5 percentage points behind Bill Clinton, and Ross Perot a whopping 36.5 points behind the president...

campaign," says Mr Dole to 12 supporters at a campaign stop in Kentucky at 6am...

The oracles speak IN AN on-the-spot survey of 12 top political commentators, 11 are of the opinion that Mr Clinton will take the presidency...

voting for them. How stupid do they think we are?" asks Mrs Gering, a voter from Arizona...

War-time Doledrums

"THIS is another sign of the incredible momentum in this

Local landslide for Bob

One town rallies round to ease the pain of defeat for a native son, writes Jonathan Freedland in Russell, Kansas

NO DOUBT who has won the election in Russell, Kansas. It's Bob Dole by a landslide. There's not a shop in Main Street without a "Dole For President" poster...

Bob tells you a piss-ant can pull a freight train, you better hitch it up, 'cause it's gonna happen..."

and the Russell wisdom said he would die within the year. But, in a gesture which has become Dole folklore, the townspeople put out cigar boxes and collected \$1,000 in nickels and dimes to pay for his medical treatment...

as the embodiment of the town. When he spoke at the Republican convention in San Diego about an America of "tranquillity, faith and confidence in action"...

If Bob tells you a piss-ant can pull a freight train, you better hitch it up

even thinking her nephew might lose. Russell knows a thing or two about defeat: it saw its land reduced to dust in the 1930s, and an oil boom vanish a few years ago...

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BT: the new global force
It has got to try: but the pitfalls are enormous

BT'S PROPOSED merger with the US telecommunications group, MCI, is absolutely riddled with potential pitfalls — financial, political, cultural and electronic. But that's no reason not to welcome such a bold bid for a big stake in the exploding world of global communications. This is a war on several fronts in which timidity won't be the winner. The world's telephone, wireless and cable companies are battling it out to become the dominant conveyors of information (whether in the form of voice, data or moving pictures) while media giants like Disney, Viacom, Microsoft and Rupert Murdoch's empire are themselves restructuring to become the dominant suppliers of entertainment and software. This is happening against a world-wide push — led by the US and the UK — to deregulate domestic markets. In the background the Internet — the world-wide computer network — is growing strongly and becoming so versatile that it is no longer fanciful to think that it may one day become the main medium for television and (voice) telephone calls as well as computer-led communications.

British Airways and British Steel that have used a strong (and, interestingly, nationalised) home base to convert into successful global players (Glaxo also had a strong domestic base through its links with the NHS). But BT first has to disprove the academic research showing that mergers are rarely successful (including some made by BT in North America). One study concluded, alarmingly, that the net long-run effect of takeover bids was to reduce (by 1.5 percentage points) the return on capital of the companies making the bids.

A merged BT/MCI will also have to face unexpected technological changes (most likely from the Internet) and a potential clash of corporate cultures between the go-getting nouveau riche Americans and the ancien régime of BT executives who, though learning fast, were reared in a protected domestic market. BT has worked with MCI for the past three years since it purchased a 20 per cent stake in it — but this doesn't mean that the American culture won't emerge supreme in a decade or so if the merger is approved by the regulatory authorities.

One likely winner from all this (apart from shareholders who have been looked after rather too comfortably by means of a merger bonus) is the consumer who faces falling prices as the cartels of international tariffs — particularly on the continent of Europe — is shattered by the onward march of deregulation and globalisation. But if we are to ensure that prices really do fall and that taxes don't get conjured away Murdoch-like into offshore tax havens, we must think how national regulators can be turned into international ones. If Cyberspace turns into a virtual tax haven dominated by international monopolies then the information revolution will have failed even before it has seriously got underway.

While the UN sits on its hands...
Zaire needs effective intervention on a much wider scale.

THE HUGE dimensions of the Zairean catastrophe can be gauged by simply considering the latest request from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. In one sense it is modest enough: it asks for the minimum that would be required to rescue hundreds of thousands of refugees from a desperate situation. Yet in the light of the current action in the Great Lakes region — and the lack of action in the United Nations or anywhere else — it may also be regarded as asking for the moon.

The French with tentative wider European support for the "restoration of security" to underpin a humanitarian operation in eastern Zaire. This proposal unfortunately evokes the French safe haven set up in Rwanda two years ago, widely seen as offering tacit support to the defeated Hutu government which had been responsible for the massacres. Any repeat intervention under the flag of one or a few nations risks being viewed with similar suspicion: by reinstating the Hutu camps it would have the effect of perpetuating the original problem. The only chance of effective intervention would be on a much wider scale with strong guarantees for security, and substantial subsidies to persuade Rwanda to relocate the refugees free from fear of reprisal.

Enter the Security Council? Hardly on its performance so far. This is precisely the kind of issue which the Secretary-general should have defined, at least a week ago, as a "threat to peace", requiring the Council to convene in emergency session until decisions were made. Instead there has been one desultory resolution calling for a ceasefire: the first call for a special sitting was only made yesterday by Germany. Waiting for today's US election is one reason why the Council has sat on its hands. There may only be a slim chance of getting action from the OAU summit in Nairobi. It is further diminished if the perception is that the UN intervenes in Europe or Asia — but leaves Africa to its misery.

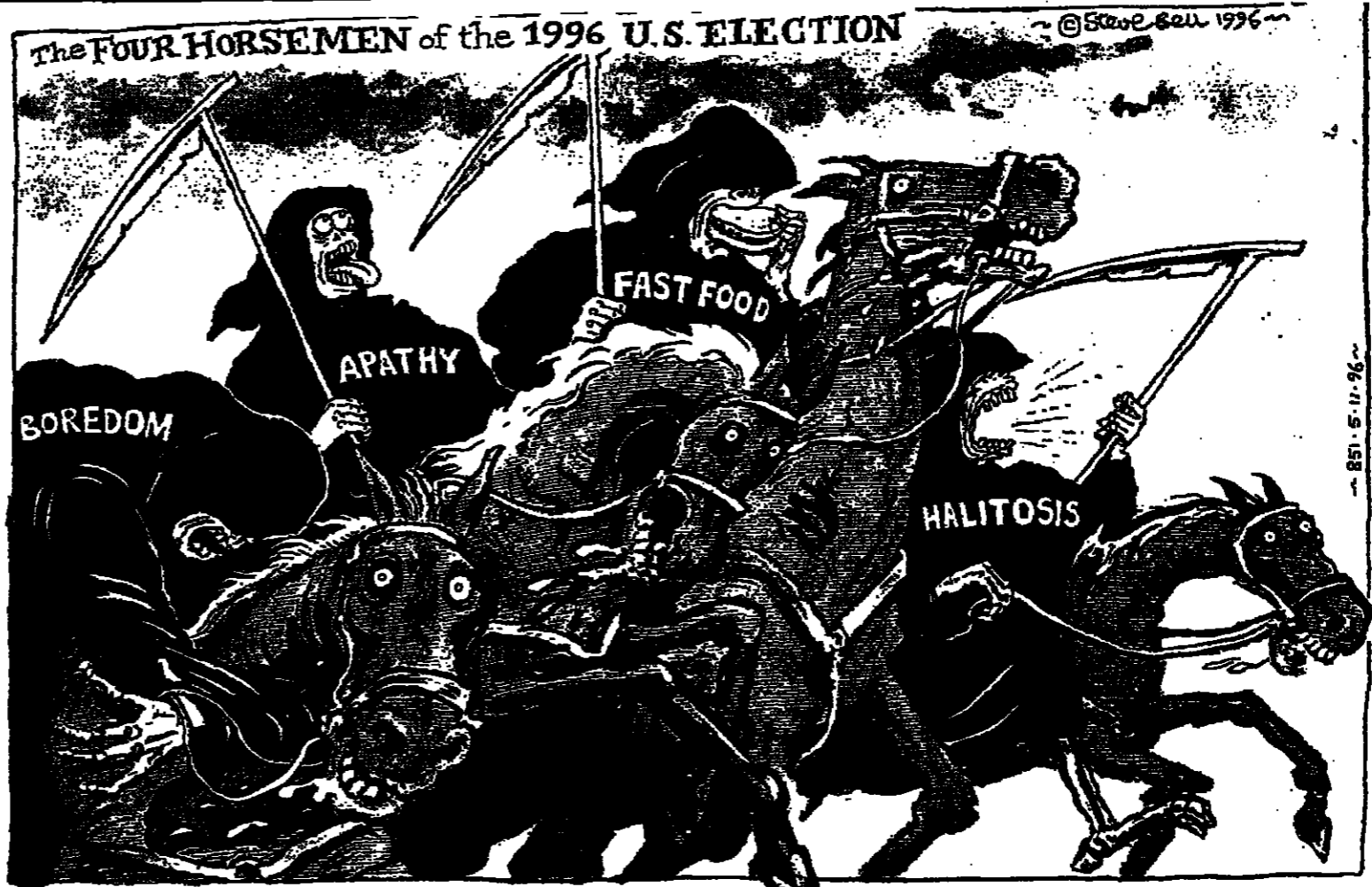
The rogue fireworks that kill

Deregulation hasn't worked: we need stricter rules now

EVEN BEFORE the real bonfire night begins, two people have already been killed. Both deaths raise serious questions. David Hattersley, a popular primary school headteacher in High Wycombe, was killed by an 8lb firework exploding in his face raising the issue of whether such huge fireworks should be restricted to professional firework organisers. The second victim, Steve Timcke, was killed instantly in Kent when a 4lb firework from China exploded in his face raising questions over import controls. The firework, which contained no instruction in English and had no safety kite mark, was not supposed to be available to the general public but was obtained by Mr Timcke, a city trader and father of two. Local trading officers, who are trying to track the seller, describe the firework, the "Grand Celebration", as extremely dangerous. It should have been ignited by an electric charge and launched

from a mortar. Mr Timcke is believed to have used a match.

One fault in current safety standards involves inappropriate classification of fireworks. Another is the vagueness of the rules controlling fireworks not meant for general sale. Safety campaigners point to a 90 per cent rise in serious firework injuries since 1991. Clearly the rise began before deregulation in 1993, but the relaxation of restrictions in that year has made it much worse. The biggest increase in injuries was in 1994 when casualties jumped by 50 per cent to 1,574, the highest for 20 years. The Health and Safety Executive can huff and puff about the new rules being just as stringent, but the figures speak for themselves. Even ministers, the most fervent prophets of deregulation, were already consulting whether new legislation was needed before the deaths happened. Stricter standards must be introduced.



Letters to the Editor

When under the whip

I AGREE with everything Francis Wheen says (Swift of the big stick, October 31). However, having brought up two daughters (now 22 and 19) in a happy household (they say), I confess to having smacked them occasionally when their methods had failed or seemed inappropriate. This seems to be the norm for most parents. As I believe Wheen has children himself, I would be interested to know what disciplinary alternatives he employs. Also, does he have any suggestions for disciplinary alternatives to exclusion for disruptive children? Hazel Powell, Buxton Lane, Caterham, Surrey CR3.

EARLIER this century children learned, at home and at school, that anti-social behaviour was a punishable offence. They did not have to wait until they left school to find out that if they inflict physical pain and suffering on people, they themselves are not immune. Has Francis Wheen considered that there may be some connection between the fact that some degree of corporal punishment was administered in British schools and the fact that the murder rate in Britain was one of the lowest in the world? Barbara Chaplin, Bradford Street, Chester CH4.

As a result of the international outbreak of single-parent families caused by Hitler, from 1947 to 1953 I went to a special boarding school for maladjusted boys. This was run on the principles of A S Neill but the fees were paid by these local education authorities from where we had been sent by the relevant Child Guidance Clinics. At both the clinic and the school I was regularly analysed by child psychologists. I assure you that the process is far more effective than beating. Ralph Gee, 35 Mansfield Court, Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG6 2BW.

IT cannot be disputed that the rising number of retired and ageing citizens will put increasing demands on all the European economies (Europe heads for pensions crisis, November 1) but the method of financing these demands has more to do with winners and losers regarding the size of pensions than with the total money available. The latter, regardless of its delivery route, will still be a charge on the future Gross Domestic Product. To claim that the UK is better placed because of its funded occupational schemes, which merely moves the responsibility from the state, is to throw a smoke screen over the debate. To deliver an average annual pension of £9,000 to the projected 12 million pensioners in 25 years' time would require each of them to accumulate assets of £100,000 — collectively equal to the total national output. This implies that average pensions will be much lower than £9,000, whilst many will have no pension at all and will live on means-tested benefits. Whereas our European partners will be and are contributing towards the needs of those who are not, and clearly nothing can change this. The problem is not finance, but how we can employ the energy and talents of the 18 million unemployed in the EU countries to produce the goods they themselves need, and also to contribute towards the needs of those who, for whatever reason, are not able to work. Since money is simply purchasing power, its value depends upon what is produced. The problem must therefore be capable of solution, although we may have to shake some ancient preconceptions first. Terry Parsons, 48 Denton Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 2HQ.

While I am no supporter of EMU, the pensions-financing problem raised by Frank Field is a complete red herring. It is based upon the false premise that money has some intrinsic value which can be "saved", for the benefit of the nation, whereas it is simply purchasing power, as the basic demonstrates by the ease with which they create it. The needs of pensioners — food, clothing and fuel — must always be provided out of current production. No matter what the form of financing, those who are working and producing must provide for the needs of those who are not, and clearly nothing can change this. The problem is not finance, but how we can employ the energy and talents of the 18 million unemployed in the EU countries to produce the goods they themselves need, and also to contribute towards the needs of those who, for whatever reason, are not able to work. Since money is simply purchasing power, its value depends upon what is produced. The problem must therefore be capable of solution, although we may have to shake some ancient preconceptions first. Terry Parsons, 48 Denton Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 2HQ.

Labour pains

KENNETH O Morgan's article (Jim nearly fixed it, Arena, November 4) should be read with a grain of salt: those too young to have been around during the 1974-79 Wilson/Callaghan governments — and especially for those who are now Labour Party members. During the governments of which I was a member, undoubtedly made mistakes. Morgan misses, for instance, the crucial failure of the Callaghan cabinet to hold the incoming Labour government (Ford for Carter, a failure which had its repercussions all the way up to the Winter of Discontent). But his conclusion that it was the party and some of the unions that proved incapable of reform or reason is a timely reminder of the cause of the wilderness years. A new Labour government would not apologise for its predecessors and might even learn a thing or two from them. John Grant, Kingsdown, Deal, Kent CT14.

But is this art?

THE term "Nazi" appears in the title and throughout the text of your piece about my play Art (A Nazi piece of work, October 29). The function of words is not only to describe the world, but they shape it at the same time. Diluting the substance of words, by thoughtless use, deprives the world of its brightness and adds to the universal confusion. Thus, the word "Nazi", nowadays adopted to fit any situation, is not only reduced to a synonym of infamy or totalitarianism, but is stripped of any political and historical meaning. The greatest responsibility for one whose craft is to weigh words is not to fake the scales like a crooked dealer. Yasmina Reza, c/o Casarony Ramsay Ltd, 60-66 Wardour Street, London W1V 4ND.

A dressing down for MPs

AS a casually dressed parliamentarian (and previously a casually dressed teacher), I have always failed to see the link between wearing a suit and being "professional" (MP aims to root out of "scruffs" November 4). You will find that most of the finest swindlers and most incompetent managers in the City have plied their trade while immaculately or, at the very least, smartly dressed. The above equation was probably partly responsible for the fact that they got away with it for so long. In addition, there seems to be a link implied between ethical behaviour and attention to dress. How can we square this with the quite remarkable ability of several of our noble MPs (and a number of equally suitably suited City gents) either to betray their wives or sell arms indiscriminately to whomever has the cash? What sort of example do these people think they are setting? Alan Benfield, Nieuwe Parklaan 155, 2557 SB Den Haag, Netherlands.

Warning: gas supply out of control

WHEN British Gas was in the public sector, I had a contract with them to check my central-heating system annually and repair it within 24 hours. It cost £120 a year but worked well. This year British Gas did not turn up as usual in July. I wrote to British Gas a month ago telling them that the contract had ceased to exist. I asked them to reduce my quarterly bill by £30. I've had no reply. The Government privatised gas. It has a duty to see that the nation is properly protected from the consequences. Gas regulation should not just be about prices, but about the wider need to ensure a viable gas supply system. Norman Westmore, 36 Vaughan Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0UF.

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: Last week, a hurricane blacked out the lights in homes across Blackmore Vale, and on the same day the high tide combined with a sudden shift of wind direction in the Bristol channel to produce destructive seas at Minehead. Cars were thrown across the road and buildings flooded. Only a few days earlier we had been part of the utterly peaceful scene at Carhampton, a village just a mile or two from all that devastation. Carhampton Village Hall stands beside a small, sloping orchard — just a dozen established apple trees and a few young ones. The land belongs to the Crown Estates Commissioners. When the question of planning consent for building arose recently, the Village Hall committee, all apple lovers, negotiated amicably and effectively, and the orchard is safe. Inside the Hall, past the cider bar, there was one row of tables down the middle (displaying prizewinning apple-cakes, chutneys, apple desserts and decorated apples) and, ranged around

A dog fight

RECENTLY, on a week's trip to England from Hong Kong, I watched David Frost interviewing Chris Patten. The issue of passports for pets now seems far more pressing than the plight of those BNO passport-holders who, in a matter of months, will be handed over to and subject to the whims of China. The dialogue with Frost was dominated by the question of Chris Patten's pet dogs, Whisky and Soda, and their right to instant abode on British shores. In the 1960s in a Shanghai park there was a warning sign: "No dogs or Chinamen here." The irony is that history is now treating dogs far better than Hong Kong's ethnic Chinese. Yasmina Reza, c/o Casarony Ramsay Ltd, 60-66 Wardour Street, London W1V 4ND.

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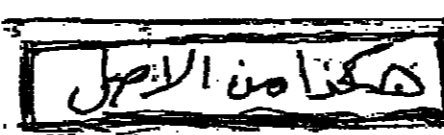
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the walls, were others with all kinds of apple produce for sale, alongside displays of antique cider-making implements and, most striking of all, the apples themselves, proud specimens of more than 20 varieties. Some, like the gigantic Bramleys, had names familiar from the supermarket, but Suntan, Winston, Court Pendlu Flat and the brilliant yellow Greenleaves were, like many others, new to me. There were leaflets about the apple's value to health: eating an apple 35 minutes before a meal can assist weight-loss as the cellulose in the fruit reduces hunger pangs. The atmosphere pervading all we had seen, especially the sense of good health, hospitality and humour, made the event a powerful recommendation of the English apple. If this is what planting, growing, eating and drinking apples does for people and communities, Common Ground performed a real service when it founded Apple Day in 1960. JOHN VALLINS





Diary

Dan Atkinson

TONY Blair's speeches, especially his ultra-orthodox economic policy pronouncements, will be a winding route on their journey to super-respectability, according to a concerned Westminster source. Drafts stride out of the Leader's office; some head through the groves of think-tankery while one ends up on the desk of Howard Davies, deputy governor of the Bank of England. Here, the preacher-man's planned proclamations are doubtless assayed to ensure 25-carat soundness before being returned fit for delivery. Even Bryan Gould - who, leaving the party early in 1995, claimed a future Labour PM would be too spineless to tell the Bank to "push off" - couldn't have imagined the Old Lady would be granted this sort of prior restraint.

MEANWHILE, John Major's majority dropped briefly to Absolute Zero yesterday as the latest edition of The House, Westminster's parish mag, declared Sir Andrew Bowden, MP for marginal Brighton Kemp town, to have shuffled off this mortal coil. With the Government's edge already shrunk to one by Barry Forster's death on Friday (and effectively nil anyway, as a vacant Labour seat is waiting to be filled), Sir Andrew's demise would have split the M-word: minority. The good news is that, despite the obituary page headline "Sir Andrew Bowden MBE MP 1950-1996" and the accompanying photograph, Sir Andrew is, er... not dead. Indeed, he is fit enough to have penned an obituary for The House on the life of Lord Finsberg, formerly Hampshire MP Geoffrey Finsberg, who died in the early autumn. Or did he? The House, with its cavalier attitude to both the quick and the dead, rounds off the Finsberg obit, which runs beneath the Sir Andrew obit in the headline, with the by-line "Lord Finsberg MBE is a Conservative peer".

ANOTHER case of mistaken identity on Blackheath on Saturday night, when thousands gathered for the annual Greenwich and Lewisham bonfire celebrations. On top of the blaze was tinsmith Andrew Lloyd Webber, complete with keyboard, but the huge effigy, it seems, bore such a strong resemblance to the preacher-man himself, T Blair, that the TV cameras, reportedly anxious for pics of the incineration. Total coincidence, claims Emergency Exit Arts, the specialist outfit behind the guy. Really? One of the major sponsors of the Blackheath Bonfire is an investment company called GLC Ltd as Blair/Lloyd Webber was consumed by flames, a message beamed out declaring the GLC to be "still working for the arts in London".

STAYING with gunpowder for a moment, life is not all tears for members of the gun-toting fraternity. Many of their weapons are about to be confiscated, and nobody likes them, but a cut of £5 million in government income may make their day. Tomorrow the second reading of the Local Government and Rating Bill will include a proposal to scrap the business-rate liability on agricultural land let out for hunting, shooting and fishing and re-label such property as farmland, conveniently rate-exempt. The bill's presenters and supporters include "Dead-Eye" Major, "Kid" Gummer and "Hannibal" Howard.

SNIEER not at the peace appeal from King Kigeli V, exiled monarch of Rwanda. At least the Rwandan royal stayed inside in 1991 when a referendum bid them pip-pip, and should His Majesty wish to operate out of Falls Church, Virginia, that is his business. But if he hopes to douse the flames of conflict, he may be advised against issuing his pleas through The Monarchist League, whose chancellor, Count Nikolai Tolstoy, is no stranger to inflammatory statements. With the Count on board His Majesty's fire engine, there is a real danger of petrol, rather than water, spouting from the hoses.



# Keeping the powers of darkness at bay

## Commentary

Hugo Young

HALF the American people will show today that they don't care who's elected president. This is a big and shocking statement, with many explanations. The turnout figure, at its worst in the US, looks like a metaphor of the times that's applicable far beyond it: it's tempting to draw a cynical moral. One can already hear righteous satisfaction at such evidence of the end of politics, and listen to it reverberating around the world. Looking at Dole and Clinton, or for that matter Major and Blair, I can be lured into feeling traces of it myself. It's the most insidious trick any demagogue can fall for.

As between Dole and Clinton, the choice seems addressed to evils that cancel each other out. A corpse and a sleazeball, Simon Heffer writes. Certainly these are flawed characters whose every weakness makes a joke of the Olympian grandeur, the wearisome millennial significance, of the post they're

spending \$100m to occupy. For many months, Americans high and low have articulated the despair which they're now about to stay at home and show. But the case for indifference has, I think, less to do with imperfect characters than with the context in which they now work. The inheritance of the last presidency of the 20th century is a meagre prize. Why should anyone care so much about a man who can do so little?

History has deprived him, to begin with, of the source of natural defence. The scale of the job has been mightily diminished. In times of cold war, it mattered whose hand was on the button. In those days, character mattered as much as belief, although they were days before character was seriously investigated. There were reds under the bed, but no cameras. When Kennedy and Nixon fought it out in 1960, the high point of contested elections had been the donation of a vicuna coat to President Eisenhower's friend. But they were glad-storers whom the people sincerely admired because they were going for a job on which the world depended. Respect and hope were at large because, without them, Armageddon beckoned.

The end of defiance is only the beginning of the explanation, however. Impotence also contributes. Presidents, never as executive powerful as the

British prime minister, have resided further into the inertial machine than we do. The president is left with a humble task. The most he can truly offer is to keep the show on the road. Every time I go to America these days, I see his role confined to sustaining ever more frantically the illusion that someone is in control: which is true only at the edges, only at fine points of the compass, only through the deafening roar of static, at the great vessel plunges forward, or back, under its own steam. This is not the stuff of heroes. Dole or Clinton: neither will have heroism thrust upon him.

And yet one cannot say it doesn't matter which. Such indifference - the sense that

mightier than any presidential speech: the decision, with world-wide electronic effect, on whether anybody hears it.

Wallowing in such impotence, but unable to admit it, who could but be diminished? The public may see it more clearly than he can. That is why they stay at home. The president is left with a humble task. The most he can truly offer is to keep the show on the road. Every time I go to America these days, I see his role confined to sustaining ever more frantically the illusion that someone is in control: which is true only at the edges, only at fine points of the compass, only through the deafening roar of static, at the great vessel plunges forward, or back, under its own steam. This is not the stuff of heroes. Dole or Clinton: neither will have heroism thrust upon him.

Bill Clinton is no giant. He is a negotiator, a tireless fixer, an intoxicated campaigner

because politicians have no great task they alone can perform, it barely matters which of them affect to perform it - brings other things in its wake. One of these, especially in the US, has been the growth of a hard-right, anti-politics, anti-state ideology far more dangerous than anything that emerged on the lunatic fringes of the cold war. The Christian Coalition, which cloaks this poisonous stuff in pious imperatives, is the dynamic force in Dole's party, and would

begin eating America for breakfast if he won. The illusion that government can be made to wither has fewer devotees in Britain, though there are forces in the Conservative Party preparing for a long campaign to persuade the people of its truth. In the US, it is the other side of the coin of the nation's decline. If America has vanquished her enemies, and her leaders are such pygmies, why should government itself not be demonised away?

Bill Clinton is no giant. He takes a stance consistent with his times, which are times when Kennedy's appeals for heroic sacrifice in the name of the nation could not be uttered without inviting ridicule. He is a negotiator, a tireless fixer, an intoxicated campaigner, a president whose private credential is to be aware of the decidedly un-millennial constraints of his job. Depending on the Congress, the projects he eschews forward can only be modest. There's more of Whitewater, the Arkansas inheritance, he's going to have to ride, and his wife may get tipped out of the boat. The biggest choice he'll have to make is whether, and how, to rectify the foreign-policy negligence of most of the first term. It is impossible to get excited by the prospect.

He is, however, a network against the fantasists. He does not believe America can survive without a federal government. He has some idea about social fairness, some notion of the politician's duty to restrain the Darwinian forces which, in the luxury of international peace, a lot of political money is prepared to ride behind. In policy, his pledges may be modest, his differences appointed if it thinks this will stimulate organic farming. For Tesco's analysis is flawed. It is not demand that has failed, but supply. Organic box schemes (deliveries of organic fruit and vegetables from local farms) are over-subscribed wherever they operate. Waitrose complains that it is struggling to find produce of a high enough standard, as there are simply not enough organic farmers to choose from. A Mori poll commissioned by the Soil Association shows that a clear majority of consumers would choose organic food if they could.

# Organic food pollutes the atmosphere



George Monbiot

AT LAST a superstore is giving people what they want. Tesco has started selling organic fruit and vegetables for the same price as its conventional lines: for the first time in decades consumers of onions and avocados need know no fear. This brave move is costing the company a great deal of money - in other shops organic vegetables sell for up to twice as much as poisoned produce, but Tesco hopes that its subsidy will pay off. Demand, it says, has been stifled by high prices, as producers have not been able to take advantage of the economy of scale.

The company's decision to bring organic food within ordinary people's reach is commendable. But it may be disheartening if it thinks this will stimulate organic farming. For Tesco's analysis is flawed. It is not demand that has failed, but supply. Organic box schemes (deliveries of organic fruit and vegetables from local farms) are over-subscribed wherever they operate. Waitrose complains that it is struggling to find produce of a high enough standard, as there are simply not enough organic farmers to choose from. A Mori poll commissioned by the Soil Association shows that a clear majority of consumers would choose organic food if they could.

Reasons for the demand are hardly mysterious. Every month reveals new food horrors, and the responses of both government and farmers' organisations are less than reassuring. When people cleared the shelves of cut-price beef, commentators lamented their lack of discrimination; in truth, many punters were ahead of the pundits.

Nearly all our food should carry a government health warning so you might as well be hanged for a cheap cow as an expensive lamb. But farmers need to be rich and eccentric to respond to the hunger for organic food. While taxpayers contributed £3 billion last year to the destruction of the environment and the poisoning of our produce, Maff handed out just £270,000 for organic production.

Organic growers receive subsidies of £70 per hectare, declining to £25 after five years, and nothing for the Barley barons polluting the groundwater with nitrates and the rivers with pesticides. The "polluter pays" principle, often cited by government as the way to clean up dirty

industries, seems somehow to have eluded the good folk at the Ministry for Amalgamating Fact and Fiction. With neither stick nor carrot in evidence, there is simply no incentive for conversion, as a result of which only 800 farmers in Britain have taken the plunge. Tesco, of course, can't do much about all this, and is condemned, for now, simply to address one market distortion with another. But making better food available, however laudable, solves only a fraction of the problems inflicted by our food industry.

Supermarkets have a number of unfortunate habits. They customarily order far more food than they need, knock down the price, then turn away the surplus produce on the flimsiest of pretexts. Their demands for perfectly spherical apples and identical carrots mean that vast quantities are dumped. Their centralised distribution networks lead to the most extraordinary ergonomics. Lettuces are trucked from the Lea Valley to Herefordshire, while others find their way from Herefordshire to Basingstoke. Fish is brought in from Aberdeen, trucked down to Cornwall for smoking, then hauled back up through the country for distribution. It's not hard to see why the supermarket chains are among the most vociferous members of the British Road Federation.

We need a wholly new food economy: equitable, accountable and efficient. This means closer links between producers and consumers, so that people know where their vegetables are coming from. It means the promotion of crops in season, rather than the celebration of perpetual chimeras. It means attending to the environmental and social impacts of every stage of production, distribution and disposal.

I would love to be persuaded that the superstores are capable of this, but at the moment I simply can't see it. Organic producers are just as vulnerable to their cruel vicissitudes as conventional farmers. Lorries trucking organic produce from Land's End to John O'Groats and back again are just as polluting as lorries laden with conventionally toxic food. Positive as its initiative is, Tesco remains part of the problem, not part of the solution.

While the superstores jostle for our attention, almost imperceptibly a different kind of marketing network has been spreading through our cities and villages. Organic box schemes, farm shops, food co-operatives and fair-trade outlets remain all but invisible to most people in Britain, but are growing, in some places, with astonishing speed. They have started treating the consumer as the consumer deserves to be treated - as an intelligent, responsive, social being, rather than another transferable good.

Interactive telecommunications are going to change our everyday lives, argues Bill O'Neill, and they'll be controlled worldwide by only three, maybe four, companies

# Masters of the universe

ON SUNDAY, senior executives of British Telecom and MCI of the US were celebrating the putative consolidation of their forces into the world's second largest telecommunications operator. For one man at least, the trans-Atlantic alliance was not simply an ambitious business deal; it must have seemed the most obvious sign yet of a shift in the balance of power of the technological forces of the next century. And Bill Gates, the founder of the American company that now dominates the market in software for running most of the personal computers in the world, wants to ensure that he and his company, Microsoft, win their share of the action.

While those celebrations were in full swing on Sunday, Gates was hosting a private dinner for a few journalists at his hotel in London, where he is staying before flying on to the Netherlands today. At one shoulder was his most powerful executive in Europe, the tall, affable Frenchman Bernard Verne, and at the other was the head of Microsoft UK, David Svendsen. Bill Emmott, the Economist's editor, greeted the trio and introduced a couple of the magazine's most techno-literate staff. There was an immediate meeting of minds, recalls one. "We talked satellites and he's just like some of my geek friends... only they don't have \$19 billion. A geek with a huge fortune: it's enough to make those who hate computers cry buckets."

Gates is excited by satellites, and rich enough to get very excited about them. He knows what it means to corner a market and, like most business people, he is not necessarily satisfied with cornering just one. With ownership of the software that runs most personal computers under his



belt, Gates is now focusing his attention on the Internet, the global telecommunications network that promises to transform completely the way we run our lives, at home and at work.

Gates now virtually dictates which computers we buy, because if we don't buy a computer that runs Microsoft products then we won't have many products to choose from. But he can dictate the Net's

development in a similar fashion only if he can control its basic infrastructure: the communication links between homes and telephone exchanges, between towns and cities and, most importantly, between countries and continents.

For the moment, these links are largely controlled by the world's telecommunications companies. But a network of satellites orbiting the Earth

and a network of receiving dishes on the ground would give Gates the independence he cherishes.

By early in the next century, by some estimates, there will be only three telecommunications companies - perhaps four, if Gates gets his satellites up and running. They will be enormously powerful, and eager to corner and safeguard total quality management. Their power will rest on their

ownership of the electronic highways - superhighways and townships - down which all business and personal traffic will be conveyed.

For the moment, much that is written about the Internet is hype, and the Internet may fall to live up to expectations. But it is not the Internet that is the core of what promises to be a fundamental change in our way of life, it is interactivity. We are seeing the first fruits of a new media age; from radio and newspapers through television and telephones to interactivity and individual alliances. The Internet may well be a significant part of that change, and the powerful telecommunications companies will have their share of that pie, but interactivity will rely as much on local networks with relatively simple connections. In some cases, these connections will be little different from the ones that have already brought interactive supermarket shopping trials to the wealthier residents of Ealing in west London and time-on-demand video and copper telephone cables to people living around BT's research centre in Suffolk.

Gates may not be able to compete at this level, but he certainly seems to be interested in achieving a much greater independence from the telecommunications companies as he can, perhaps even by going as far as building his own satellite network to support his service on the Internet. It's certainly an expensive solution, but that is the least of his concerns. For a software developer, it also represents a huge leap into a new business territory. But if someone as shrewd as Gates is looking for a way round the bouncers at the gates and to join the party, then it looks as though it's likely to be a pretty impressive affair - and the telecommunications companies will be running it

## Why Oxford should take the money

John Mickletwait and Adrian Wooldridge urge the university today to vote for Wafiq Said's management school

ACADEMICS are no more inclined than anyone else to look at a gift horse in the mouth. So Wafiq Said, the Middle-Eastern financier who wants to give £20 million to Oxford University to fund a management school, might have expected that he would soon be decked out in medals and reincarnated as Dr Said. Yet today, when Oxford University holds a vote about whether to accept his money, the result is likely to be extremely tight. In part this reflects simple facts about where Mr Said's money comes from; in part, the fact that the proposed new building will replace much-loved playing fields. Yet it also reveals the near-universal odium that "normal" academics feel for the

study of management and business. Left-wing dons and tweedy paternalists alike have complained that Mr Said is trying to set up a modern equivalent of an academy of thieves. A medieval-history don has even implored Mr Said as a Muslim not to allow a business school to defile Oxford's sacred turf.

Oxford is not alone. No matter how many gleaming new buildings management education institutions throw up around the world, Harvard Business School is currently spending \$5m spare change on a new computer system, the crumbling Ivory towers still contrive to look down their nose at them. On balance, the common rooms are the right to be suspicious about

which are supposed to "guarantee competitive success".

Many in academia would add that even the best management theory is blindingly obvious. Many theories look like applied common sense ("the customer is king"); many catch phrases ("total quality management") seem trite. But this overstates the case. Toyota and Honda destroyed much of the West's car industry precisely because the Japanese did take total quality management seriously.

Indeed, ignoring management theory is even worse than embracing it completely. That is partly because it is so influential. Never having heard of "business process re-engineering" probably stifled the Treasury mandarins - until many of them were re-engineered out of their jobs in a recent exercise. In Oxford's case, many of the education reforms introduced by this government, from performance-related funding to league tables, spring from management theory. Tony Blair's only

big new idea, stakeholding, was won by John Kay, the head of Oxford's new business school.

If you dig through the wattle of management theory, you discover that a fair chunk of it does work. Industry leaders such as Motorola, Merck and 3M take management theory seriously. Even in the public sector, where it has been applied with stunning ineptness, the net effect has usually (just) been beneficial. Nobody at New Labour takes seriously reversing the NHS reforms.

The best way to look at management theory is as a young discipline, in which the canonical texts and defining methodologies are still being developed. This teenage period is likely to go on for some time, not least because of its enormous success. But it has a point nonetheless. Oxford deserves a business school.

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Jean-Bedel Bokassa

Brutal excesses of an egomaniac

Jean-Bedel Bokassa, who has died of a heart attack at the age of 73, was one of the most notorious figures of modern African history.

Pres. specialists in decorations. One of those he gave himself in 1970 was that of Grand Master of Honour of the International Brotherhood of Knights of Stamp-collecting.

concentrated mostly on Operation Bokassa, was a mish-mash of notions of agricultural self-help, including a return to something not unlike forced labour.

event. Giscard still played down the issue. What seemed to change his mind was the incident in which his adviser on African affairs, René Jour-niac, was struck by Bokassa with his silver-topped cane.



On eagle's wings... Bokassa's lavish coronation in 1977 reputedly swallowed a quarter of his country's annual earnings

He drew world opprobrium for ordering the killing of schoolchildren who had been jailed for protesting at the compulsory wearing of school uniforms in factories that he owned.



His period of power was one of the strangest episodes in the post-colonial history of Africa, accompanied by much hypocrisy in the West

to leave power — having once said that Bokassa was "too stupid to stage a coup".

rejected love, seen above all in the fatal connection with Giscard d'Estaing, with whom Bokassa went on hunting trips, called "Cher parent", and hosted official visits.

Thus it was that, in 1966, Bokassa inherited a country already on the brink of bankruptcy; he left it in a similar condition in 1979.

When things started going wrong after the killings of the schoolchildren in 1979, and Bokassa's fellow francophone African leaders sponsored a damning inquiry into the

Peter Doig

Say 'no' to dogs and drink

PETER Doig, who has died at the age of 68, represented Dundee in the Commons for 15 years until 1979.

pute and journalism — had a long reputation for its eclectic approach to parliamentary representation. It had rejected Winston Churchill, accepted the Bloomsbury set figure of John Strachey and also returned Neill's Scripps to the British MP over to be elected on a prohibitionist ticket.

second ballot produced a one-note victory for Doig who, although a poor speaker, had the backing of the jobs workers' union. Thus was his career born.

strongly influenced by the Communist Party and the shop stewards' movement. Through the years, he was presented by right-wingers George Thomson and Peter Doig. This became increasingly uncomfortable at activist level even if the electorate remained affectionate towards "Pete".

man. One postman was bitten by the Queen's corgi when delivering a letter to Balmoral Castle.

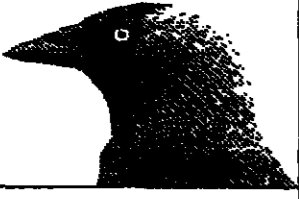
Birthdays

Bryan Adams, singer, 37; John Berger, art critic, 70; Art Garfunkel, singer and composer, 55; Gen Sir John Hackett, soldier, scholar and author, 86; Marianne Hester, sociologist, 41; Caroline Jackson, Conservative MEP, 50; Dr Paul Knappman, composer, 61; Steve Miller, rock musician, 53; John Morris QC, Labour MP, 66; Tatam O'Neal, actress, 33; Lester Piggott, jockey, 61; Roy Rogers, actor, 84; Anthony Rolfe Johnson, actor, 58; Sam Sheppard, actor, 53; Paul Simon, songwriter, producer, 54; Elke Sommer, actress, 56; Lord Stallard, former Labour minister, 75; Sir William Stubbs, chief executive, Further Education Funding Council, 58; Ned Temko, editor, Jewish Chronicle, 64; Sir Anthony Tennant, chairman, Christie's, 66.

Death Notices

STEWART Robert Howard Mackenzie (aged 80, died 2nd November 1996) was born in Glasgow and spent his childhood in the West Indies. He was a member of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Golf Club and the Glasgow and West of Scotland Golf Club. He was a member of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Golf Club and the Glasgow and West of Scotland Golf Club.

Jackdaw



Veep speak

"HAWAII has always been a very pivotal role in the Pacific. It is in the Pacific. It is a part of the United States that is an island that is right here." Vice-President (V-P) Dan Quayle, Hawaii, September 1989.

"Target prices? How that works? I know quite a bit about farm policy. I come from Indiana, which is a farm state. Deficiency payments — which are the key — that is what gets money into the farmer's hands. We got loan, uh, rates, we got target, uh, prices, uh; I have worked very closely with my senior colleague, Indiana Sen Richard Lugar, making sure that the farmers of Indiana are taken care of." V-P Dan Quayle on being asked to define the term "target prices".

what he would do if he assumed the presidency, 1988. "Let me tell you something. As we were walking around in the store, Marilyn and I were just really impressed by all the novelties and the different types of little things that you could get for Christmas. And all the people that would help you, they were dressed up in things that said 'I believe in Santa Claus.' And the only thing that I could think is that I believe in George Bush." V-P Dan Quayle at a garden centre and produce store in Baltimore (from the Los Angeles Times, Douglas Jehl, November 6, 1988).

nature of North Atlantic seawater. While studying a body of water which was found to be moving west, it was hypothesised that this eddy, named Storm Physics, would reach the Mid-Atlantic Ridge in rather less than a year unless it is destroyed by topography. Environmental dangers? New Scientist.

God and me RECOMMENDATIONS: For centuries, people thought the moon was made of green cheese. Then the astronauts found that the moon is really a big hard rock. That's what happens to cheese when you leave it out. I believe you should live each day as if it is your last, which is why I don't have any clean laundry because, come on, who wants to wash clothes on the last day of their life? THIRD RUNNER-UP: I don't know about you, but I enjoy watching paint dry. I imagine that the wet paint is a big freshwater lake that is the only source of water for some

and quiet it would be until the looting started. Deep Thoughts contest on the humour listserver, where entrants were asked to imitate "Deep Thoughts by Jack Handey." Thanks to Michael Joub.

Holy hearts CERTAINLY, religion appears good for your health. Thirty years of research shows that churchgoers have lower blood pressure than non-churchgoers. Elderly people who attend services are less depressed and physically healthier than those who don't. Men and women who attend church regularly have half the risk of dying from coronary heart disease as those who rarely go to church. And a recent study in the US found that people whose religious faith gave them strength were three times more likely to be alive six months after open-heart surgery. We should expect to see Tony Blair and John Major having few health problems after their recent declarations of strong religious beliefs. Good Housekeeping.

FUL DEAD REUNION TOUR. Microsoft Systems Journal: APPLE LOSES MARKET SHARE. Victoria's Secret Catalog: OUR FINAL SALE. Sports Illustrated: GAME OVER. WIRE: THE LAST NEW THING. Discover Magazine: HOW WILL THE EXTINCTION OF ALL LIFE AS WE KNOW IT AFFECT THE WAY WE VIEW THE COSMOS? TEN WAYS YOU CAN PROFIT FROM THE APOCALYPSE. Microsoft's Web Site: IF YOU DIDN'T EXPERIENCE THE RAPTURE, DOWNLOAD SOFTWARE PATCH RAPT777.EXE. How the media might report the end of the world. From the Humour listserver on the internet.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4368; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ET.

Emily Sheffield

Good Housekeeping

USA Today: WE'RE DEAD. The Wall Street Journal: DOW JONES PLUMMETS AS WORLD ENDS. National Enquirer: O J AND NICOLE TOGETHER AGAIN. Playboy: GIRLS OF THE APOCALYPSE. Rolling Stone: THE GRATE.

Good Housekeeping... hearty

Good Housekeeping

Good Housekeeping

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House prices... Sex bribe for taxman led to love... Stumbling blocks... Advice... A... Invesco tal...



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Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
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# Finance Guardian

## 'Sex bribe for taxman led to love'

Financial staff

**A** FORMER prostitute yesterday told the Old Bailey how sex at £200-a-night with tax investigator Michael Alcock developed into a romance. "We were in love, planning a future together," said 30-year-old Michelle Corrigan. She had not asked Mr Alcock what he did for a living "because we were too busy having a good time. I could see he was a wealthy man, taking me to nice places and buying me lovely things." The couple regularly booked into room 68 of a West End hotel and holidayed in Spain, she said. The prosecution alleges that Mr Alcock's first sex session with Miss Corrigan was paid for by Iraq-born oil consultant Hisham Alwan, who later paid eight hotel bills for the couple. In return, the prosecution says, Mr Alwan did not have to pay a £120,000 tax bill. Mr Alwan was one of several wealthy businessmen under investigation who



'In love'... Michelle Corrigan arrives at the Old Bailey to tell of her relationship with taxman Michael Alcock

PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MOORE

bribed Mr Alcock with luxury holidays, cash and other gifts in return for favours, the prosecution alleges. Mr Alcock, from Colchester, Essex, denies 13 charges of corruption from 1987 to 1992. Miss Corrigan said she was having sex with Mr Alwan for about £200 a time after being given his number by a man in Essex she named as the publisher, David Sullivan. She met Mr Sullivan while modelling

for men's magazines and advertising. "I met a number of photographers. Through them I met David Sullivan," she said. He had asked if she was interested in escort work and gave her Mr Alwan's number. After several dates for which she was paid every time, Mr Alwan asked her to meet a friend to whom "he owed a favour". Mr Alwan had introduced her to Mr Alcock, and gave her an envelope. "I had a quick

look in it. It was £200 in cash," Miss Corrigan said. They talked for half an hour and then had sex, she said. They continued to meet for six or seven months, with Mr Alcock paying her each time: "Sometimes it was £200, sometimes more." "Their relationship gradually changed, she said. Mr Alcock told her he wanted to see her more often and stop seeing other people. "I

was falling in love with him," she said. They went on holiday to Marbella and Majorca. The prosecution alleges that the villas they stayed in were supplied by wealthy individuals whom Mr Alcock was investigating, although the taxman paid the fares. Mr Alcock paid £1,500 rent on her flat in Portsmouth, paid off her credit card bill for £1,000 and bought her a £675 watch and designer clothes, shoes

and make-up from Harvey Nichols and Gucci, she said. She agreed with Mr Alcock's counsel, Anthony Arledge QC, that it was "a bit like Pretty Woman territory". Hisham Alwan, 56, from Knightsbridge, London, denies three charges of corruption. A third man, David Shannon, 66, from West Kensington, London, denies a single allegation of corruption. The trial continues today.

## Notebook

### Murdoch may drop Sky pilot



Edited by Alex Brummer

**S**PECULATION that MCI will cut its stake in American Sky Broadcasting as a result of its merger with British Telecom sheds light on recent events within Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation empire. Mr Murdoch sits on the board of MCI — which owns shares in his group — and will have been aware of talks with BT and the potential repercussions. This increasingly looks like the reason for News Corporation's decision to mortgage its 40 per cent shareholding in British Sky Broadcasting in order to raise \$1 billion through the issue of convertible preference shares. If MCI contributes less to ASB — for it and News Corp jointly bid \$420 million last January — then the Murdoch group will have to fund more.

But the manoeuvre may have increased tensions between Mr Murdoch and his right-hand man in London, Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSkyB. Relations were already under stress because Mr Murdoch wanted to merge BSkyB's news service with that of his American broadcaster, Fox, in order to challenge Ted Turner's CNN service.

In addition, Mr Chisholm is said to be less than happy to have Mr Murdoch's daughter, Elizabeth, sitting at his shoulder in a senior position at BSkyB as part of the accelerated grooming of the Murdoch offspring to take over the empire. Formerly one of Mr Murdoch's closest allies, Mr Chisholm is also thought to be keen to expand the operational base of BSkyB — a putative bid for Pearson was an example — beyond TV and its role as a cash and programming cow for the rest of News Corporation's global satellite television business.

Market sources say the convertible share issue was unfortunate for Mr Chisholm because it was nothing new for Mr Murdoch. He apparently thought nothing of ousting such notables as Kelvin MacKenzie, Gus Fischer and Andrew Neill. But pushing out Mr Chisholm could have wider implications. He has been involved in the negotiations to secure film, football and other sports rights which have been at the heart of BSkyB's success. Described by one analyst as "a one-man negotiating machine", Mr Chisholm is also seen as crucial to the company's pay-per-view discussions with BT and the launch of its 160-channel digital TV offering.

But Mr Chisholm now runs a company whose market capitalisation is larger than that of Murdoch's News Corporation. Andrew Neill's recent autobiography claimed that Murdoch sacked him because the Australian-born magnate was jealous of Mr Neill's fame. BSkyB's share price would certainly suffer if Mr Chisholm were to depart. But it is a risk Murdoch might be prepared to run to curtail the ambitions of a pretender.

## Dollar flip

**T**HE Clinton presidency has brought an end to two long-running complaints about the way in which the US runs its economy. During Mr Clinton's tenure at the White House the budget deficit was cut in half and the cheap dollar policy reversed.

So the impact of today's elections on these two issues will be of concern to G7 finance ministers and central bankers. On the budget deficit, the best result for the markets would be the expected Clinton victory in the presidential race and Republican control over both houses of Congress. Despite the general Republican sympathies of Wall Street and Robert Dole's lifelong credentials as a budget-cutter, the latter's decision to buy into Reaganite supply-side tax cuts as a means of wooing the electorate has been a worry throughout the campaign.

Calculations by Harvard economist Benjamin Friedman show that if the Dole-Kemp ticket were to triumph then the cost to the US exchequer in terms of revenues would be \$548 billion in the years 1997-2002. All pretence of a balanced budget by 2002 would have to be abandoned. However, a Clinton victory would mean that the tax cuts proposed will be relatively modest and generally paid for, and that the Gingrich-controlled House of Representatives would remain determined to reinforce the most durable aspect of its contract with America — the budget-reduction plan.

The dollar issue is more tricky. The pressure which has turned the dollar around since April 1995 was entirely international. Since the G7 determined that the dollar was too cheap, it has climbed 34 per cent against the Japanese yen and some 10 per cent against the German mark. Now Clinton administration officials chart the mantra that a strong dollar is good for the American public and will mean stronger real incomes. But, with the election out of the way, will the Clinton team feel it must pander to its G7 allies any longer? As European growth picks up, there is reason to believe that the US currency will start weakening again. Similarly, if the Japanese have begun to put their economic act together again, there will be rising fears for the US trade balance with the Pacific and jobs and growth in America.

The devaluationists, led by Fred Bergsten of the Institute of International Economics, could be back in the ascendancy. grabbing machine can be quantified by the fact that counter-evasion and counter-avoidance activities by the Revenue in 1995/96 netted a paltry £1.6 billion, barely enough money to keep HMG in business for 48 hours. And there is just one word for most of the tax dodges identified: Stupid. Take the retirement home. Revenue sleuths didn't have to be Sherlock Holmes to suspect the purchasing records showing receipts for condoms and tampons, products not in great demand among the elderly. The receipts, it emerged, had been fished from empty shopping trolleys. And the frog-suit and flippers? [The] dealer tried to claim that he wore them when washing cars."

## No heroics for revenue cheats

Dan Atkinson

**O**NE-FIFTH of the Italian GDP is hidden in the black economy. The US Treasury's tax take is riding light to the tune of billions of dollars.

And in Britain? Well, there was the south-coast retirement home that ran a minor diddle involving condoms. Oh yes, and the car-dealer who tried to claim his frog-suit and flippers counted as "industrial overalls". There are just two words to describe the tax dodges detailed in the "compliance" section of the Inland Revenue annual report, published yesterday — Small Time. Britain's decidedly non-heroic resistance to the tax

## TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.01	France 8.11	Italy 2.441	Singapore 2.25
Austria 16.83	Germany 2.4065	Malta 0.588	South Korea 7.59
Belgium 48.23	Greece 361.50	Netherlands 2.704	Spain 202.5
Canada 2.13	Hong Kong 12.38	New Zealand 2.25	Sweden 10.82
Cyprus 0.751	India 58.37	Norway 16.18	Switzerland 2.01
Denmark 8.26	Ireland 0.971	Portugal 344.80	Turkey 132.763
Finland 7.35	Israel 5.38	Saudi Arabia 6.11	USA 1.8300

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

## Stumbling blocks on road to mega-merger

# Advisers fall out over BT

Patrick Donovan and Nicholas Bannister

**A** ROW has erupted between the two banks working for British Telecom on its MCI merger. NM Rothschild is accusing Wall Street's Morgan Stanley of "seizing the limelight" over the City's biggest and most prestigious deal, which will generate up to £150 million for an army of financial advisers. The \$12 billion takeover of the American group, MCI, which yesterday boosted BT shares by 2 1/2p to 373 1/2p, was masterminded by NM Rothschild, BT's merchant bank.

However, US-based Morgan Stanley was signed up as a co-manager to the deal because of its specialist knowledge and influence in the American markets. But NM Rothschild is angered by what it sees as attempts by Morgan Stanley to take the public credit for a deal in which it played a subsidiary role. Apparently hoping to seize the public relations initiative over the "show piece" merger, which offers huge prestige for the key participants, Morgan Stanley was

over the weekend trumpeting the role it played in orchestrating the deal.

But after representations from NM Rothschild, the Wall Street bank was yesterday publicly declining to comment on its contribution towards the success of the merger.

Meanwhile, the ground-breaking deal looks as if it will be a bonanza for City advisers. NM Rothschild is expected to earn between \$10 million and \$15 million with around a third payable up front and the rest due when the deal is completed.

Wall Street-based Lazard Freres, which advised MCI, is expected to charge rather more because of the higher fees commanded by US investment banks.

But sources expect the bulk of the fees to be generated by legal advisers with yet further funds being spent on the marketing and management consultancy firms expected to be signed up to help form the rebranded company. While BT's shares soared, credit-rating groups warned that they might cut the group's top-notch AAA debt rating — not least because of the huge level of investment to which the group is now committed.

Moody's Investor Service said that the merged companies would have a stronger competitive position but "significantly higher debt leverage". Standard & Poor's said: "Though Concert's financial profile on a pro-forma basis is expected to remain strong following the merger, the group will face significant capital investment needs and a higher industry risk than BT is currently exposed to." The Communications Workers Union described the MCI takeover as a bold and innovative move for BT but said it was a "crossroads for

## Takeover will be first test of US ownership law

Nicholas Bannister and Mark Tran

**B** RITISH Telecom's attempt to create a telecommunications powerhouse by taking over MCI will prove the first big test of new American legislation governing foreign ownership of US telecoms companies.

The Telecommunications Act, passed in February, has lifted the stake a foreign company can buy from 20 per cent to 25 per cent and changed the conditions under which the Federal Communications Commission, the US regulator, can waive the restriction. The union has already been in touch with its US counterpart to discuss joint initiatives. Geoff Hoon, Labour's technology spokesman, said he had been assured by BT that the takeover of MCI would not affect the group's investment in the UK. Labour is counting on BT and other big telecoms groups for the construction of the UK's information superhighway.

AT&T, the US group most at risk from a BT-MCI combination, said "The regulators will have to look at prices, terms and conditions of interconnection, the existence of competitor safeguards and the regulatory environment in the UK." James Quello, a commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission, said: "This is a landmark deal that will require some very careful thinking. I am open-minded about it,

but we shall have to be reassured on having reciprocity with the British market."

The FCC will concentrate on reciprocity, while the Department of Justice will examine the competitive effect within the US, including the impact on the local telephone market, which MCI will target heavily.

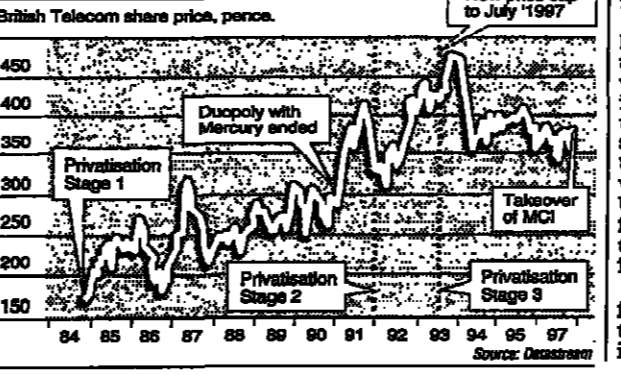
Extensive hearings and tons of documents are expected in the first round of regulatory review to determine whether American companies enjoy the same access to the British market as British firms have to the American market.

American law prevents a foreign company owning more than 25 per cent of any American firm that is licensed to operate cellular, satellite and other wireless communications. The FCC has always permitted 100 per cent foreign ownership if the deal "is in the public's best interests".

## THE BIG DEAL



## Talking telecom numbers



## Invesco takes AIM for £1 bn to create new group

Richard Miles

**I**NVESCO, the independent fund management group, announced yesterday it is to pay \$1.6 billion (£1 billion) for AIM Management Group, a rapidly growing US mutual fund manager.

The deal, which is subject to the approval of AIM's 3 million mutual fund holders, will create a new group named Amvesco, with combined assets under management of \$150 billion.

Invesco brings a strong track record in US institutional fund management to the alliance, while AIM offers a series of high-performing retail funds, which have helped the privately owned company double its assets under management to \$57.1 billion in less than two years.

Charles Brady, chairman of Invesco and chief executive of the new group, will designate the merger would give said fund managers the necessary scale "for success as a

financially strong and independent business, operating in an increasingly concentrated industry".

He added: "It will have a broad product range which, combined with an expanded US distribution capability and a global infrastructure, offers exciting prospects for future growth."

The newly formed company will be 45 per cent-owned by AIM shareholders, who receive \$1.1 billion in Invesco shares and \$500 million in cash.

Charles Bauer, the 77-year-old chairman and chief executive of AIM, described the combination as "truly compelling". He becomes vice-chairman of the new company.

Both organisations stressed that there were no plans for job losses or office closures. Amvesco, which plans to take over Invesco's listing on the London Stock Exchange, will have a combined workforce of 2,800 based at 20 sites around the world.

Invesco, with \$91 billion

under management and a market capitalisation of \$332 million, has more than 70 per cent of its business in the US institutional markets, but has struggled to tap into the fast-growing retail mutual fund business, which has been stoked by the demand for pensions.

In the UK, Invesco recently started to woo retail investors again, following a six-figure fine from Imro, the regulator of money managers, partly connected to the Maxwell scandal.

Its European unit trust funds have done particularly well in recent months, picking up many investors who deserted Deutsche Morgan Grenfell after the antics of Peter Young were uncovered.

Analysts yesterday welcomed the merger, describing it as a good move at a good price for Invesco. "AIM's client base is growing more rapidly than Invesco's, so this is probably a low price," said one. Shares in Invesco remained unchanged at 237.5p.



## Property firm hits back at Active Value

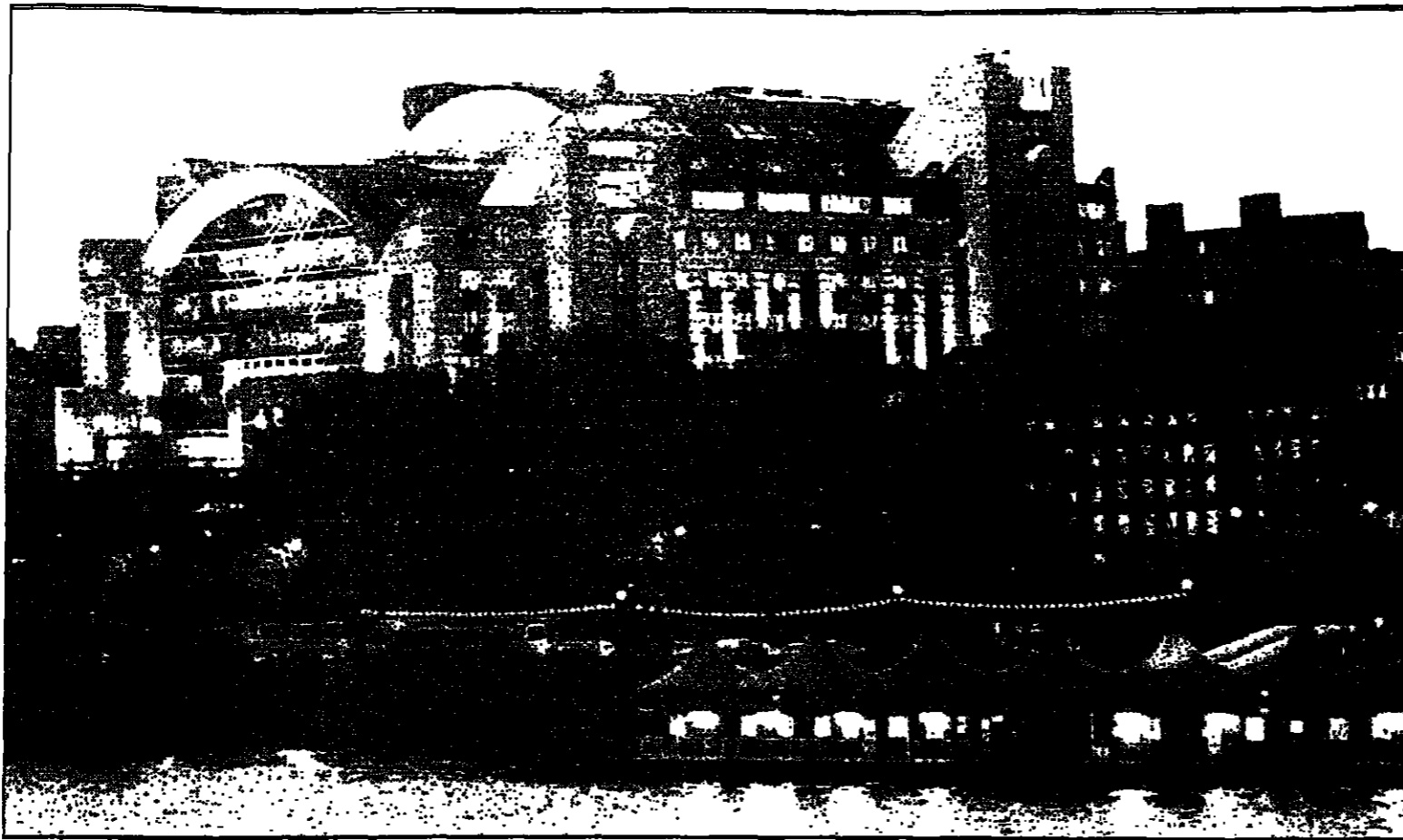
Ian King

A WAR of words broke out yesterday between Greycat, the embattled property company, and Active Value, the predatory fund manager which is trying to force the group's break-up.

In its first communication to shareholders since Active Value requisitioned an extraordinary general meeting for next week, Greycat attacked the fund manager's proposals as "ill-conceived" and urged their rejection.

Greycat has also reported a 123 per cent increase in half-year pre-tax profits to £3.8 million. The shares closed down 1p at 147p.

Greycat said Active Value's resolution, which calls for the liquidation of Greycat's property portfolio, amounted to little more than a closing-down sale and was flawed in its logic. Apart from the fact that such a sale would be conducted at "knock down" prices, the proposals took no account of the recent



Defence base... burning the night oil at Greycat's headquarters on London's Thames Embankment

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

revival in the commercial property market or of hedging contracts taken out by the company which would need to be closed off prematurely and at a loss, Greycat said.

Peter Thornton, Greycat's chief executive, said the cost of repaying the company's debts early and breaking interest-rate swap

agreements it had entered would be at least £10 million.

In addition, the property market in London's City and West End — where Greycat's property portfolio is concentrated — was set to continue improving for at least two years, highlighting the fact that it was not a time to sell.

He added: "We are delivering value, and I would be surprised if our institutional shareholders came down on the side of a closing-down sale."

Active Value — whose previous campaigns have targeted companies such as Scholl, Liberty and Signet — immediately hit back, accusing Greycat of offering

"jam tomorrow". Brian Myerson, manager of Active Value and until March a non-executive director of Greycat, said the property company had "yet again offered more hollow promises".

Mr Myerson, who compared the company with rival property groups such as British Land and Land

Securities, said the management team had performed very poorly since being rescued by UK Active almost three years ago.

He went on: "This management team... has failed to give clear and coherent reasons why the sale of all its assets and the return of proceeds to shareholders is not the best option."

## Halifax forecasts 7pc house price rise

Larry Elliott  
Economics Editor

HOUSE PRICES in the UK are set to rise by 7 per cent this year after showing their biggest monthly increase for two and a half years in October, the Halifax building society said today.

With demand for homes surging, the Halifax said the 1.6 per cent jump in average prices last month had prompted a second upward revision this year in its forecasts for the market.

The society — Britain's biggest mortgage lender — said that the strength of the market in October had prompted it to upgrade its end-year forecast from 5 per cent. It is pencilling in a further 7 per cent increase in 1997.

Separate Government figures out yesterday indicate that the mini-boom is also starting to feed down to the hard-pressed construction industry. Data from the Department of the Environment showed that housing starts in the third quarter of 1996 were 13 per cent up on the three months to June and 16 per cent higher than in the July-to-September period of 1995.

Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said: "This is a sharp increase in housing starts. The building bricks of recovery which have long been seen there in other parts of the economy are now in house building."

Ministers remain hopeful that the recovery in the housing market — which is eating away at the problem of negative equity — will boost support for the Government in the six months until the likely date of the election.

According to the Halifax, prices are now 7.1 per cent

higher than a year ago, compared with the 5.2 per cent reported for September. Prices are set to rise on an annual basis for the first time since 1989, when the market was weakened in response to 15 per cent base rates.

The Halifax said it could identify no clear factor for last month's sharp rise in prices and warned that the pattern was unlikely to be repeated over the next two to three months.

"House price inflation is likely to end the year in excess of our forecast of 5 per cent, probably around 7 per cent. Confidence in the housing market is continuing to improve in line with the recent increases in housing transactions," it said.

The average price paid for a home in October was £65,609, more than £4,000 up on a year ago, but prices are still languishing well below their peak in the mid-1980s.

First-time buyers are returning to the market, with prices in this sector rising by 1.1 per cent last month. The average price paid by first-time buyers is now £47,963 compared to £76,680 for previous owner-occupiers.

Rob Thomas, housing market analyst with City firm UBS, said the Halifax could still be under-estimating house price inflation, which he expects to be 10 per cent next year. He added that the market was not being driven up by a shortage of supply — as some estate agents insist — but by excess demand.

The booming conditions in the housing market are being replicated in the commercial sector, with surveys at their busiest for more than two years, according to the latest quarterly report by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, published today.

## Airlines plan court challenge on new noise limits

Keith Harper  
Transport Editor

THE Government is facing a judicial challenge from the airline industry over its plans to introduce stricter noise limits to protect the environment at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

The limits, due to take effect from January 1, will impose stricter controls on both day and night take-offs in a move ministers thought would be generally welcomed.

Noise monitors will also be improved.

The court action is being pursued by the International Air Transport Association (Iata), whose general secretary, Pierre Jeannot, told The Guardian yesterday: "The new regulations are far too tough. Heathrow and the other airports already comply with international standards. The British Government is being unreasonable."

Mr Jeannot said Iata had set Britain a November 1 deadline for negotiations, in

the absence of which it would take action through the courts. "That deadline has now passed, so we will be seeking a judicial review to prevent the changes being implemented," he said.

British Airways said last night that, while it backed the Government's proposals and the improvement in noise monitors, it doubted if the new limits were achievable. All aircraft are now subject to fines for excessive noise of up to £1,000 a flight.

Lord Goschen, the aviation

minister, said that, when the Government had consulted on the matter, there had been "a wide divergence of opinion" between the airlines, the airports and local authorities. The present limits at Heathrow have applied since 1959.

Mr Jeannot told Iata's annual meeting in Geneva yesterday that world airlines had made record profits of £3.25 billion, but that continuing uncertainty in the Middle East and the Gulf could continue to force up fuel prices and costs. The firing of 27

Cruise missiles at Iraqi targets in September had put up the price of fuel from 65 cents (40p) to 77 cents a gallon.

"If pressing a firing button can dramatically increase airlines' costs, it can also point up the fragility of their hard-won profitability," he said.

Iata, which represents 254 airlines, believes the industry may be reaching a point of diminishing returns, unable to reduce costs much further.

Commenting on the sudden rush of new alliances, of which BA's proposed link

with American Airlines is the latest, Mr Jeannot said "mega networks" could lead to a "randomly assembled set of arrangements" more likely to "resemble a plate of spaghetti" than a complete service network.

EMIRATES, the Middle Eastern carrier, has placed a £1.25 billion order for 16 A350-300 aircraft from Airbus Industrie, the European consortium of which British Aerospace is a member. They will be delivered over the next six years.



You're used to successful meetings. So are we.



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

### News in brief

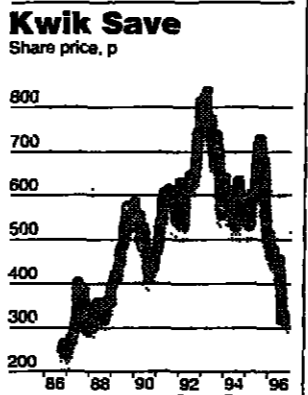
#### Kwik Save will shut up to 100 stores

SHARES in Kwik Save fell to a nine-year low yesterday following reports that the company is to take an axe to its 970-strong stores chain. Thousands of jobs are at risk from the restructuring at the discount food company, best remembered for offering cans of baked beans for 3p each.

Up to 100 stores are expected to be closed at a cost of £100 million following a review of the business carried out by the consultants Arthur Andersen. Kwik Save is also said to be planning to enter the lucrative own-label market.

The company declined to comment ahead of its results on Thursday, when the City expects profits to fall 31 per cent to £85 million. In May, Kwik Save said profit had fallen 28 per cent in the first six months and warned of further pressure in the second half. The group's shares closed down 17p at 302p.

The company, which began a review of operations five months ago, has been squeezed between aggressive foreign-owned cost-cutters like Netto and Aldi, and price campaigns by market leaders Tesco, Sainsbury, Asda and Safeway. A spokesman for Usdaw, the union representing 9,000 of the 25,000 employees, said: "We have great concern over reports that as many as 100 stores could be closed." — Tony May



#### Rank offloads coach firm

RANK, the leisure group, is about to sell its Shearings coach holiday business to a management team for a sum believed to be £50 million. Rank said yesterday that it was in exclusive negotiations with the 14-strong team, led by former Rank director Angus Crichton-Miller and backed by NatWest Ventures.

The management, which is contributing more than £1 million of its own money as part of the deal, outbid five rivals, believed to include Barr & Wallace Arnold, the Yorkshire-based coach operator. John Slatcher, Shearings' managing director, said the company would be floated within five years. — Ian King

#### Biotech news falls flat

SHARES of British Biotech, Britain's biggest biotechnology company, slid 19p to 210p yesterday, despite upbeat news from the company about Marimastat, its anti-cancer drug. Announcing Marimastat's latest Phase II trial results, British Biotech said at an industry conference in Vienna that the drug was effective in reducing the rate of increase in cancer antigens.

The company said Marimastat was undergoing crucial Phase III trials, although results are not expected until 1998. City analysts warned that Phase III tests would be considerably more rigorous than Phase II. — Ian King

#### Asbestos lifeline for T&N

THE T&N car components group was thrown a lifeline yesterday when the US Supreme Court agreed to review a large asbestos settlement. The company, which used to be Britain's biggest asbestos manufacturer, had feared that its provision against asbestos claims would have to double. But the US court's decision to review the settlement means it can maintain its provision at \$50 million.

The news helped to offset a warning yesterday from T&N that conditions in its auto parts markets were "patchy". — Tony May

#### Northern Electric bid bonus

FOUR directors of regional electricity company Northern Electric will share profits of £268,796 from their share options if the hostile takeover bid mounted by US firm CalEnergy succeeds. The four also hold shares worth more than £1 million at the offer price of £6.20 for each ordinary share and £1.05 for each preference share. — Chris Barrie

## Mutual insurer raises £215m

Richard Miles

FRIENDS Provident, the life insurance and fund management group, yesterday raised £215 million of debt stock in a clear signal to predators that the company wishes to retain its mutual status.

Friends Provident has been the subject of intense speculation for several months. Many life industry analysts have tipped it as a take-over target or expected it to follow Norwich Union's example by announcing plans to demutualise.

But Michael Doerr, chief executive, said yesterday that the issue of £215 million new debt stock proved mutuals could still raise money on the market, and hinted that the company was looking at making an acquisition of its own.

Mr Doerr said the new stock, which takes the company's working capital to £2 billion, would be held in reserve until a suitable opportunity for expansion came its way. "We are raising further capital now because, with interest rates at low levels, it is an attractive time to do so,

### Friendly debate

For mutuality:

- Less vulnerable to take-over.
- Life insurance policyholders benefit from profits generated.
- No shareholder intervention in corporate strategy.

Against mutuality:

- Less able to raise capital.
- Less expansion through organic growth or acquisition.
- Insulates life insurance policyholders from volatile business.

and the resulting increase in solvency ratios will give us even more flexibility in the future to grow both organically and by acquisition," he said.

Earlier this year, Friends Provident was favourite to take over CInman, the coal industry's £15 billion pension fund, before being piped at the post by blue chip investment bank Goldman Sachs.

With £17 billion of funds under management, Friends Provident is a top five mutual life insurer.

## BAT poised to increase stake in troubled ITC

Ian King

BAT Industries, the tobacco giant, is likely to use the crisis at ITC, its troubled Indian subsidiary, to take a greater stake in the company.

ITC, which is India's biggest tobacco company but which also has substantial hotel and commodity interests, is embroiled in a foreign-exchange scandal that saw two of its former chairmen arrested last week.

BAT has not concealed its desire to raise its shareholding in ITC, where it has a 31.7 per cent stake, and last year forced the early exit of former chairman Krishan Lal Chugh — one of those arrested — after a boardroom struggle.

Last night, spokesman Michael Priddy said it was "plausible" BAT could raise its stake in ITC, but that a decision until it had spoken to fellow shareholders in India.

Mr Priddy, who insisted BAT was not involved in any way with the allegations being faced by ITC, said the

company was meeting ITC's institutional investors today and tomorrow.

He said the greatest priority, as an ITC shareholder, was ensuring that the company continued to trade in the face of all the allegations and "management analysis" it faced.

Mr Priddy added: "Taking control of ITC has never been on our agenda — only Chugh said that because he wanted to wrap himself in the flag. Our stake might rise, but we must talk to the institutions, as when we tried to get things done unilaterally it didn't work at all."

City analysts said yesterday BAT was "highly likely" to increase its stake in ITC, which currently enjoys a 70 per cent share of the highly lucrative and fast-growing Indian tobacco market.

"Around 900 billion roll-up cigarettes are smoked every year in India, against just 50 billion manufactured cigarettes, so, as smokers 'trade up', there is potentially huge growth," an analyst said.

BAT shares closed 4 1/2 p lower at 415 1/2 p.

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Sport in brief

Swaledale cyclist is banned for ephedrine

THE Swaledale CC rider Jill Reames has been banned for six months and stripped of the national 100-mile time-trial championship silver medal she won in July after testing positive for ephedrine...

Somerset opt for Reeve

SOMERSET will today confirm the appointment of Dermot Reeve on a three-year contract as director of cricket in succession to Bob Cottam...

Teenager sets NBA record

THE LA Lakers guard Kobe Bryant became, at 18, the youngest player to appear in a National Basketball Association game as the home side won 91-85 against the Minnesota Timberwolves...

Montgomerie on the move

THE European No. 1 Colin Montgomerie and seven other golfers embark today on a Far East odyssey in which they will play 18 holes in each of four Asian capitals over six days in pursuit of a \$20,000 first prize...

Jackman bucks rankings

NORFOLK's Cassie Jackman, promoted last week to world No. 3 in women's squash, beat the No. 2 and former world champion Michelle Martin of Australia for the third time in as many weeks...



Catch me if you can... Tony McCoy sets a hot pace on Bean Babillard on his way to winning yesterday's Jolly Tanners at Staplefield Chase at Plumpton

Coulton can be the Travado party pooper

Ken Oliver
LIVERWOOD'S horses are in tremendous form and the Lambourn trainer has a fine chance of landing a treble today with Coulton and Dark Nightingale at Exeter and Fairies Farewell at Warwick.

When defeating the smart Gales Cavalier at Wincanton nine days ago. After that victory Sherwood said: "When Coulton is on song it takes an exceptional horse to beat him."

that should not prevent her from scoring again and she looks the day's best bet. At Warwick, Fairies Farewell (3.55) does not look harshly treated in the Earl of Essex Novice Handicap Hurdle and the 6lb she receives from Alpine Nest should give her the edge.

Jim Neville's first winner as a permit holder. This time she made all to win by a distance from Rachael's Owen in the Balcombe Selling Hurdle. Neville, who now has a full licence and trains a string of 20 on the Welsh side of the Severn Bridge at Newport, said: "Last year I thought she would win a handicap after her display here, but it seems she is not quite good enough for that."

Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival in March. "Mysliv is having a bit of a rest after a hard time in her French races and will not be seen until after Christmas," said Egerton. "She is not good enough for the Champion Hurdle and needs a trip. The mare also has not had enough experience for the fences at Cheltenham at this stage - so it is the Stayers' for her."

son's charge is a 9-4 chance with Coral's, while the sponsors go 4-1. Jenny Pitman, who trained last year's winner Jibber The Kibber, is represented by Jet Rules (7-1 with both firms) and Arithmetic (4-1 with the Tote and 16-1 with Coral).

Redcar runners and riders with form guide

Table with 2 columns: Race details (time, distance, conditions) and runner/rider names with odds.

Warwick (N.H.)

Table with 2 columns: Race details and runner/rider names with odds.

Exeter (N.H.)

Table with 2 columns: Race details and runner/rider names with odds.

Results

Table listing race results for Southwell, including race numbers, runner names, and winners.

PLUMPTON

Table listing race results for Plumpton, including race numbers, runner names, and winners.

Results

Table listing race results for Exeter, including race numbers, runner names, and winners.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring a phone number (0930 1681) and a list of racing events.



Soccer

Dalglish keeps Ibrox in suspense

Patrick Glenn

WALTER SMITH, the Rangers manager, yesterday confirmed that Kenny Dalglish has been offered the post of directing the Ibrox Park club's proposed global-scouting system.

It is clear, however, that the enigmatic former Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers manager is in no hurry to accept. David Murray, the Rangers chairman, is still awaiting an answer.

"An offer was put to Kenny before our match against Ajax last week," said Smith, "but we have not yet had his decision. We hope to have a meeting with him shortly and we will let you know as soon as we hear."

It is understood that it was Smith's idea to try to hire Dalglish as the Scottish champions seek to restructure their scouting system. It will be a comprehensive overhaul and is to include an overseas operation.

Rangers feel that Dalglish's own intelligence network — he is believed to have a comprehensive knowledge of the English and European games — could be used to their advantage.

There has been widespread dissatisfaction about the standard of recent players Rangers have imported at

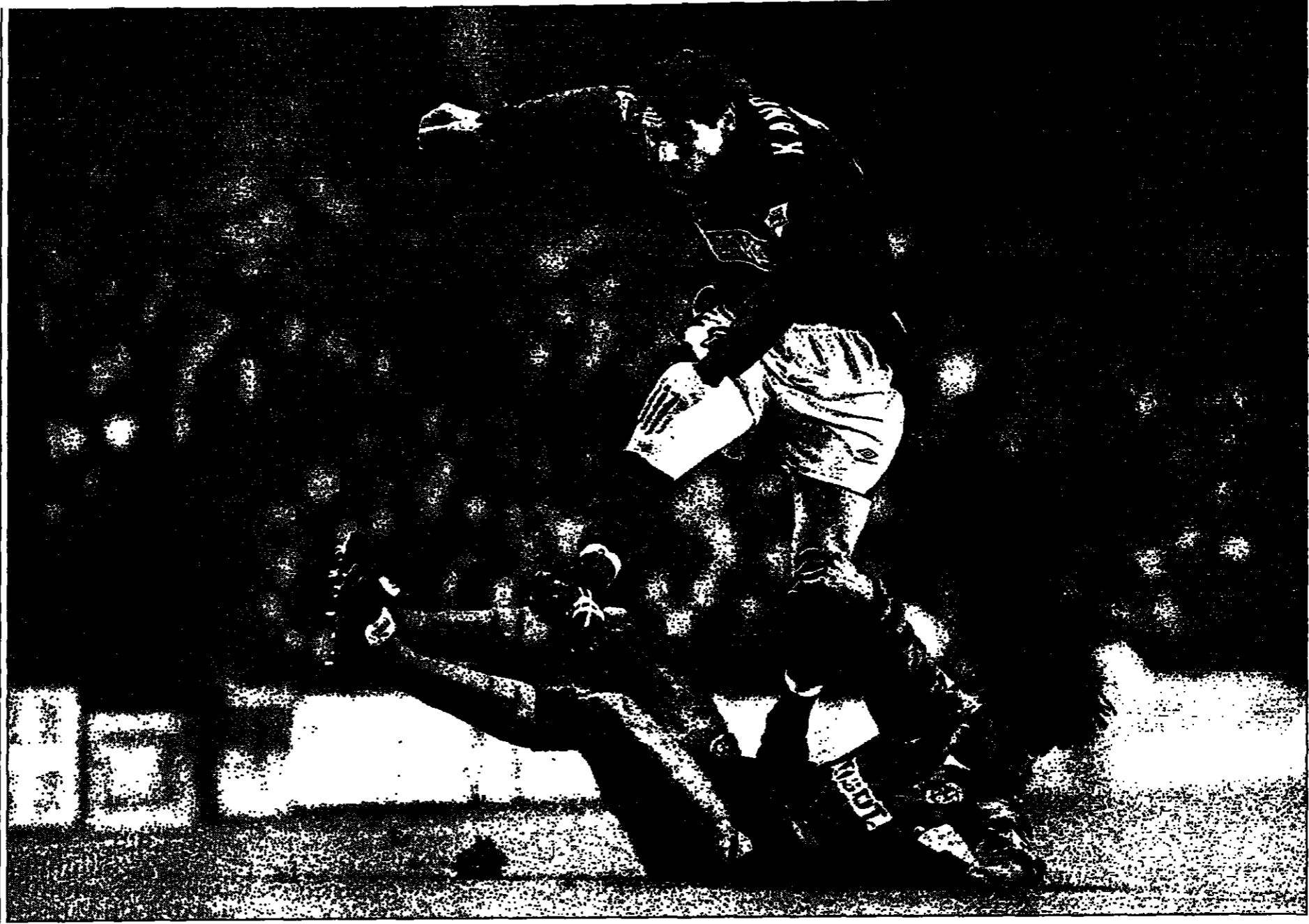
considerable cost — even Brian Laudrup and Paul Gascoigne, successful at home, have failed in Europe — and a feeling that they have missed the boat in some instances.

These days a big club can entice a future name from abroad by asking him to sign a promissory note, pledging his transfer once he becomes available under the Bosman ruling. It is understood that Patrick Klutsvet, the Ajax striker, completed such an agreement with Milan 18 months ago.

Rangers believe that Dalglish can carry out that role although they like Celtic have yet to come up with a method of convincing overseas names that Scottish football is the place to be. Despite the millions spent by the pair of them, all the evidence suggests that the very best have by-passed Glasgow.

The former Scotland international striker Ian Wallace has been appointed Dumbarton's manager in succession to Jim Fallon who resigned at the weekend after a 5-0 defeat at Livingston.

Wallace, one of the game's early £1 million players after leaving Coventry City for Nottingham Forest, has held managerial posts in Australia. He will keen to improve on a record that sees the Second Division club as the only one without a home win in Scotland this season.



Over the top... Andrei Kanchelskis, Everton's flying wing, takes Coventry's Richard Shaw in his stride at Goodison Park last night. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Premiership: Everton 1, Coventry City 1

McAllister turns the wrong into right

Ian Ross

COVENTRY City's plight is such that they remain thankful for small mercies. They will unquestionably regard a draw against a team which had won their three previous games as a significant achievement but, in truth, this was hardly a night for the purists. It was a scruffy and undistinguished affair, characterised throughout by wretched finishing and poorly channelled efforts.

Not for the first time this season Goodison Park's public address system was the bearer of unpropitious tidings. While Nick Barnby was safely in place after his \$5.75 million move from Middlesbrough, he would not be exchanging passes with Duncan Ferguson.

Barnby's free and selfless running always seemed likely to be too much for them. They started like a team with one eye on damage limitation. They were scrapping for their lives inside the opening minute.

But, once Coventry found a steady rhythm in central midfield, they too began to hint at goals. Richardson, an Everton favourite for a different generation of fans, twice saw thunderous drives from distance pass narrowly wide.

Everton's hitherto methodical football began to fray at the edges. The overall pattern was lost on some players, notably Kanchelskis.

The opening half had died a slow, painful, almost ugly death when added time yielded the goal which Everton must have feared would never come. It was controversial, too. Although Barnby's shot clearly struck Richardson's arm, it did so only after ricocheting at speed off his hip. The award of a penalty

Houchen sacked by Hartlepool

KEITH HOUCHEM's first stab at management ended yesterday when he was dismissed by Third Division Hartlepool United, who are languishing in 91st place in the league.

The side have lost seven of their past eight matches and the final straw was the 3-2 home defeat by the bottom club Brighton. Their player-coach Mick Tait has taken over as caretaker.

Norway's Iversen poised to join Spurs

THE Norwegian striker Stefan Iversen is one of three former players on the target list of Tottenham's manager Gerry Francis.

The fee would beat the previous record for a Norwegian player, the £1.5 million that took Ole Sjolander to Manchester United last summer.

Iversen has also interested Barcelona and Manchester United but would be a coup for Francis, who has been forced to look abroad by the reluctance of his chairman Alan Sugar to pay the millions needed for top players in Britain.

The captain Ben Thatcher is one of four withdrawals from the England Under-21 squad for Friday's European Championship qualifier in Georgia.

The Middlesbrough striker Phil Stamp, who damaged a calf muscle in Sunday's defeat at Newcastle, is likely to be named as a replacement today.

Wales' chances of getting anything from the World Cup qualifier in Holland on Saturday were reduced almost to zero yesterday when Ryan Giggs was pulled out of the squad by Manchester United.

Wales suffer Giggs blow

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I'm a changed man now, Gascoigne tells Hoddle

Continued from p26

where his life was leading. "Obviously I've done things just out of... just out of... whatever you call it... I've just done it you know. Later, the next day, I've regretted it. And then I've tried to hide it by joking and that, and pretending I didn't regret it, which I had done.

it, and then I won't be in so much trouble as I have been in the past. I want to be accepted as Paul Gascoigne the footballer and Paul Gascoigne the person.

None of this may survive the first bad tackle on Saturday, either on Gascoigne or by him, but for the moment he seems convinced that counselling has made him more relaxed with opponents and referees.

"In the past I seemed to hate everybody. That's the one thing I'm getting rid of."

The issue of whether Gascoigne stays in the England team has now taken over from the question of Hoddle keeping him in the squad.

Hoddle admitted yesterday that he had not made up his mind about whether to field Gascoigne on Saturday.

"He'll want to play but he knows that I've got to make the decision," said the England coach. "That will depend not only on what I've learned about him in the last four weeks but what I also learn over the next few days.

Team talk

Table with 4 columns: Team, Score, Opponent, Date. Lists results for various football clubs including Arsenal, Aston Villa, and Sheffield United.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Soccer and American Football. Lists match results for various leagues and teams.

Fixtures

Table with 2 columns: Soccer and American Football. Lists upcoming matches for various leagues and teams.

Pools Forecast

Table with 2 columns: Pool and Odds. Lists forecasts for various pools and associated odds.

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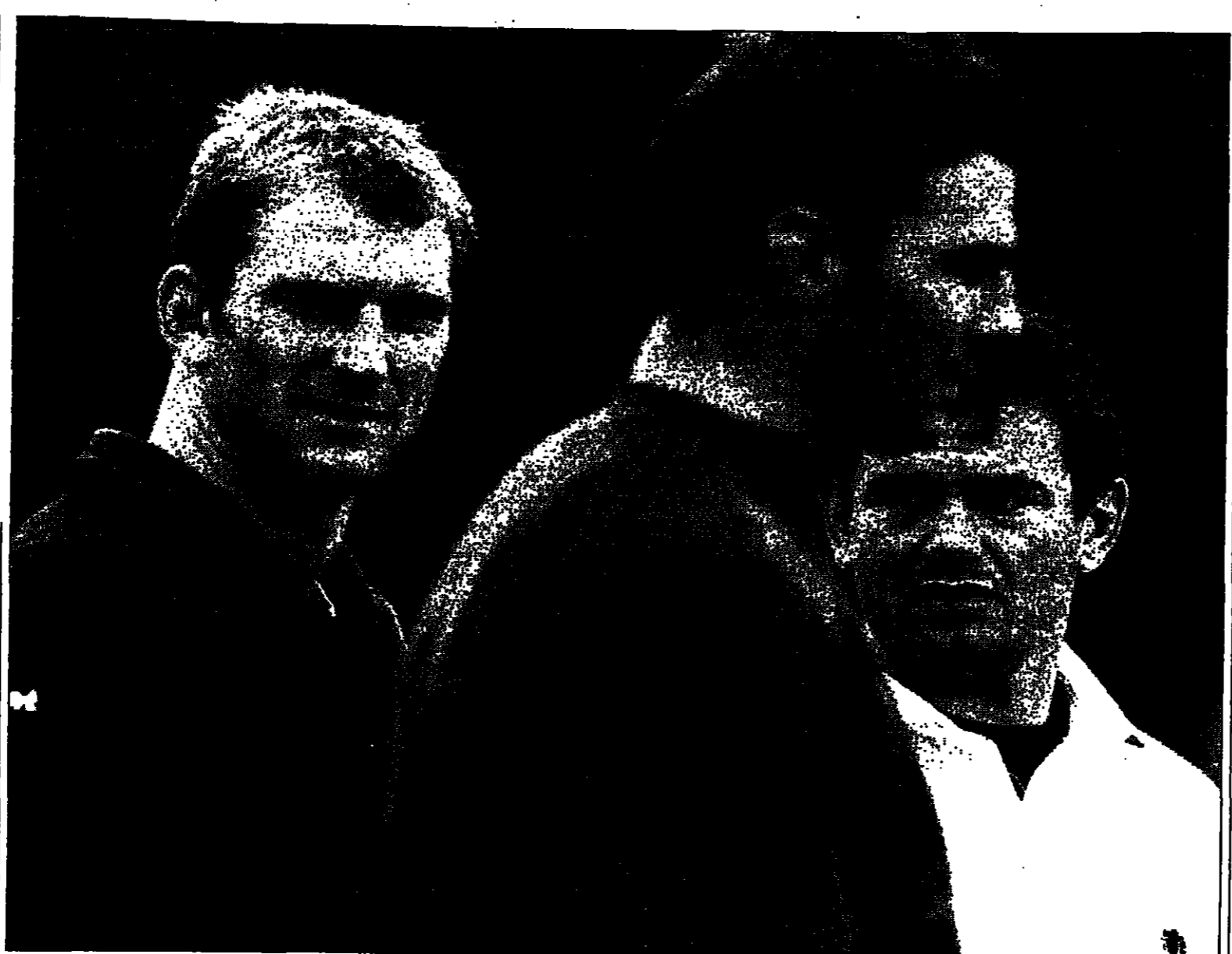
Rugby Union

Jack Rowell names his England captain today. Robert Armstrong says the hot favourite for a hot seat is old enough if good enough

Dallaglio leader of the leaders



Jack Rowell... the coach nominates the captain, the RFU appoints him



Group captain... from the left, the probable Dallaglio, the possible Clarke and the past Carling at England's recent training session

THE England captaincy may not quite be a poisoned chalice but whoever takes on the job will have to deal with more than his fair share of rancour, envy and malice.

Lawrence Dallaglio is the hot favourite to succeed Carling with a fanfare of good wishes at Twickenham today but already his critics are saying the Wasps flanker is too young, at 24, for the job and that anyway he is not certain to keep his place.

Ben Clarke, rated by New Zealanders as top British player on the 1995 Lions tour, is thought to have killed off his prospects by opting for League Two rugby and the megabucks of Richmond.

claim Carling did nothing more than make the after-dinner speeches are also fond of saying that England, in the new era of the all-powerful coach, do not need a captain.

Tim Rodber, who used to be known as FEC (Future England Captain), is reckoned to have played himself out of contention through a combination of allegedly poor form and his dismissal for punching an opponent in South Africa two years ago.

Ben Clarke, rated by New Zealanders as top British player on the 1995 Lions tour, is thought to have killed off his prospects by opting for League Two rugby and the megabucks of Richmond.

last season, desperately needing a captain with excellent communication skills who cares just as much about winning and losing as Carling did. When Plan A goes wrong — and it usually does for England — a cool, independent personality at the helm is worth his weight in lucrative RFU contracts.

to Dallaglio, a man who positively relishes problem-solving on the hoof, notwithstanding his modest total of six caps. Unlike Carling, who was given the job at 22, the 31-year-old forward has a proven background of club captaincy — thrust upon him when Dean Ryan took the Newcastle shilling — that should serve as an invaluable apprenticeship for the tasks ahead.

laglio is very much his own man, publicly questioning some recent Epruc decisions which undermined the preparations of the England squad. If Rowell does nominate Dallaglio, the coach will not be getting a mere placeman who loyally rubber-stamps the decisions of the boss.

passed over, none of the other front runners or dark horses would make anything less than a competent England captain. Other European nations, including France, would be delighted to have men of such calibre to choose from. One reason why Carling flourished for eight seasons, leading England to a record 44 wins, was the number of potential leaders around him.

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The front runners

Ben Clarke

Age 28, caps 28

The big Wasps long-term contract with Richmond will earn the former Bath forward at least £1 million and he could expect a triple that as England captain. Friendly and ultra-relaxed, Clarke did not bat an eyelid recently when his girlfriend gave him a sharp slap on the horn from her sportsbar on Richmond Bridge.

Lawrence Dallaglio

Age 24, caps 6

The big Wasps with the Italian pedigree enjoys standing at the blackboard during England team talks outlining strategies and options for success. He has a certain way with referees too, often chatting them up with such relentless charm that they start being infected with his hostility towards the opposition.

Phil De Glanville

Age 28, caps 16

The Bath captain is a skilled diplomat, as he proved by persuading virtually all the Bath squad to stay together when substantial offers were flooding in from rival clubs last spring. With Carling and Guscott in form, his place is uncertain but his ability to talk good sense allied to astute tactical awareness would serve England well.

Jason Leonard

Age 28, caps 49

An Army officer with the Green Howards, Rodber's stock in the eyes of Jack Rowell went up and down like a yo-yo last season when he was captaining the Wasps in the promotion drive from League Two. His recent form back in League One has been first-rate, which should ensure a back-row berth, if not the captaincy.

Tim Rodber

Age 27, caps 25

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Newcastle given Saturday off

NEWCASTLE, who had threatened to pull three of their players from Scotland's squads for the weekend unless they were given permission to postpone Saturday's Courage league game against Rotherham, were yesterday successful with their plea.

It is understood that the thumbs-up was given by the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc), which last week also gave West Hartlepool permission to postpone a league match because of injury problems.

Newcastle's A-team manager Gary Armstrong and lock Duddle Weir were named in the Scotland squad for Saturday's Test against Australia, and the flanker Peter Walton was called up for Friday's A-team game against South Africa A.

Further Anglo-Welsh delays

THE Anglo-Welsh Cup, bedevilled by postponements, resumes tomorrow with only half of its eight fixtures intact. Northampton's home fixture with Caerphilly moves to November 26 and new dates must also be arranged for Bridgend v Bristol, Newbridge v West Hartlepool and Saracens v Trowbridge.

or 12 days' time, will play tomorrow. Leicester's England flanker Neil Back returns after a six-month ban — he pushed a referee — for their visit to Neath. Llanelli visit Harlequins. Pontypridd entertain Wasps and Dumfries host London Irish.

Tennis

Moya avoids early Moscow coup

Richard Jago in Moscow

CARLOS MOYA, conqueror of Thomas Muster and Tim Henman in Paris last week, three times came within a point of being knocked out in the opening match of the Kremlin Cup yesterday.

The eighth-seeded Spaniard's career-best effort last week was almost followed by his becoming the first seed to depart here.

Moya survived 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 against Renzo Furlan, a nimble Italian ranked No. 39 in the world who rallied with such steadiness that for a while the Barcelona baseliner

abandoned his favoured style and tried to serve and volley instead. Despite two match points against him on his serve at 3-5 in the second set, Moya rescued himself by this less familiar method, although at 5-6 in the tie-break he had to save a third match point with a high, lurching backhand, drawing a ground-stroke error from Furlan.

Moya's best shot, his forehand, snatched the last point of a tense tie-break by 8-6, and he progressed quickly to a double break of serve in the third set and victory.

The sixth-seeded MaliVal runner-up, was in early trouble when 3-5 down to Bohdan Ulihrach. However, the American then had the Czech bouncing his racket in frustration as a series of early-ball returns and net rushes earned the break-back.

ble when 3-5 down to Bohdan Ulihrach. However, the American then had the Czech bouncing his racket in frustration as a series of early-ball returns and net rushes earned the break-back.

The fourth seed appeared to have rallied his way back in the second set, but once Damm broke serve at the first attempt in the third set he

erved too potentially on a much faster carpet surface than that in Paris for the Frenchman to have another chance. All of which should act as a warning to Henman, who starts today against the Zimbabwean Byron Black, who employs double-handed strokes on both wings. If the British No. 1 comes through to a second round meeting with Marc Rosset he will find the Swiss player's serve booming on this surface.

Henman has dropped from 25 to 28 in the ATP rankings issued yesterday after successive first-round defeats in Stuttgart and Paris. Greg Rusedski has risen one place, from 54 to 53.

American Football

Eagles swoop for last-minute win to rein in the Cowboys

Mark Tran in New York

PHILADELPHIA are back in business as serious challengers for the Super Bowl. The Eagles landed in the Dallas Cowboys' backyard and came away with a 31-21 win that snuffed a long-lost streak.

Texas Stadium had been the burial ground of Philadelphia's hopes in the past five years and so it seemed again with just over a minute left. The Cowboys were poised for a winning touchdown, or a field goal to send the game into overtime.

Their quarterback Troy Aikman floated a pass toward the left corner of the Eagles' end zone, but the throw was too soft. James Willis eagerly intercepted it, ran out of the end zone and, in an inspired if risky play, passed the ball

starting quarterback Rodney Peete early in the season, but his able deputy Ty Detmer has become a local hero in Philadelphia after leading the Eagles to one victory after another.

On Sunday the calm Detmer outshone Aikman. He threw a 14-yard TD pass to the veteran Receiver, Irving Fryar, sneaked in for a six-yard TD himself, avoided any sacks and, most important, threw no interceptions. Aikman threw two, one led to an Eagles field goal, the other to Philadelphia's dramatic TD.

Ray Rhodes, the Eagles' coach, was elated. "We talked about the fourth quarter all night and all last week," he said. "We made the plays in the fourth quarter. No turnovers by us was a key. I can't say how big this is for our football team."

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this devastating defeat was the last thing they needed before Sunday's showdown with the San Francisco 49ers, who beat the New Orleans Saints 24-17.

Jerry Rice, the 49ers' extraordinary receiver, set another milestone in his already illustrious career by becoming the first player to make 1,000 receptions. He caught a 36-yard TD pass, set up another TD with his record-setting catch and recovered an onside kick as the 49ers notched up their seventh win of the season.

A match between the 49ers and the Cowboys is normally seen as a preview of the Super Bowl, but that duopoly looks set to end this year, with a very strong Green Bay Packers team lying in wait and challengers such as the Eagles and the Redskins also on hand.

Captain by name if not by function

Eddie Butler, the former Wales captain, believes it is the coach who pulls the strings

THROUGHOUT rugby's second Bore War, only one secret has survived the Yorkshire Water torture. Only one bit of information has not been leaked: the name of the England captain.

This morning the waiting will be over and there will be an official announcement, an appointment, an appointment with all the pomp that Twickenham can muster for a good-news story.

It would be interesting if Martya Lewis could read out the winners, Miss World style, in reverse order... (drum roll) "In third place... Philip De Glanville; in second, Jason Leonard... but first and indisputably licensed to print money, Lawrence Dallaglio..." (fanfare)

It will be a PR triumph, putting the sport ahead of the politics on the back pages. Big Jack Rowell had said he would not nominate his skipper until the squabbling was over. And here he will be, naming his man.

But what does it all mean? What will the England captain have to do? By far the biggest part of the job will be dealing with the media. All the leading candidates are good at that.

Leonard is your mate down the pub, save a laugh, give a Frog a smack if he starts taking the mickey in the scrum. De Glanville is classless Oxbridge. And Dallaglio is the man who rose to his feet last season when asked by Rowell to explain precisely how England were going to beat Scotland, and gave the coach and fellow players chapter and verse with unblinking authority.

The hotel meeting-room on a Saturday morning or the changing room just before kick-off are about the only places where the captain can shift the mood of his team. And even there, in the inner sanctum, it is debatable whether a few words, however well delivered, can alter things.

Will Carling was England's most successful captain and yet his team talks do not appear to have been all that stirring. He persuaded his forwards to change their ways on the big occasion only once — and England lost the 1991 World Cup final.

Carling's England ruled Europe because they were the best team. They won Grand Slams but mauled rugby into the first Bore War which set back the evolution of the game in this hemisphere by five years. Carling will go down as a good captain but really he was simply the leader of a good team. Compare him with Phil Bennett of Wales, Claram Fitzgerald of Ireland and Gavin Hastings of Scotland. Each was a successful captain; each lost in New Zealand as captain of the Lions and came home with reputation dented. It somehow seems easier to diminish the qualities of the leader than admit that on each occasion the All Blacks were a better side. Ironically, what made Carling great was that as non-captain in 1993 he went through a nightmare tour but re-emerged right at the end with reputation enhanced. To do that as a dirt-tracker in New Zealand speaks volumes for his personal motivation.

On the field there is little the captain can do. He can tell the kicker to go for the corner rather than goal, he can opt for a scrum rather than a line-out, but the game is now played at such a pace that drastic tactical rethinks are beyond a participant's vision.

The coach determines style. He is the strategist. The captain can only motivate beforehand, get stuck into the play and deliver a few quiet afterwards. The coach has the overview from the stand; only he can alter things by sending on his messages and juggling his replacements.

The only time the captain will have to think on his feet and make major snap decisions is in the medi scrum. And Carling is the benchmark against whom the new man will be judged. It is one of the ironies of the situation that Carling became a tactical genius off the pitch just as he was giving up the captaincy.

He showed an unlikely common touch and won universal approval for his "Old Farts" aside and for going scrumping over the palace wall. And then he was welcomed back into the fold of the establishment for refusing to endorse Epruc. Quite brilliant.

Though his successor may have an admirable tactical brain, how will he follow Carling in the areas of captaincy that really matter? He will not be in command of his destiny, for by his reputation will be forged by his team and his coach. England could play safe, but if they truly want to avoid a third Bore War they will need to take risks. The new captain may not be in a position to have a princess, but a fairy godmother might come in handy.

Snooker

O'Sullivan has close shave

Give Everton in Bangkok

ENGLAND'S team of Peter Ebdon, Nigel Bond and Ronnie O'Sullivan unconvincingly qualified for the quarter-finals of the Castrol Honda World Cup here by beating Pakistan 6-3 to finish top of Group C.

Ebdon, who has won 10 of the 12 frames he has played, said: "No matter how self-critical you are, a win is a win. We can only improve. We'll take some beating."

Bond, though, has taken only four frames and said he felt "horrible because I'm letting the team down". He was beaten by all three Pakistanis, Mohammed Saleh, Shokat Ali and Farhan Mirza. O'Sullivan was unsettled 10 minutes before his opening frame when the tournament director, Ann Yates, told him to go and shave. She had given the same order to Mark Williams at Bournemouth two weeks ago, clean-shaven or bearded is acceptable but her interpretation of the dress code excludes designer stubble.

Pakistan looked set to take second place until Thailand Doug Mountjoy's United Arab Emirates 8-0 to secure a quarter-final berth.

Northern Ireland, requiring four frames from New Zealand to finish second to the Republic of Ireland in Group A, beat them 6-3. Scotland finished top of Group B by beating Hong Kong 8-1, with Stephen Hendry making a break of 124. Canada also qualified from this section.

Wales, 6-4 winners over Malta, headed Group D but their No. 1 Darren Morgan flew home afterwards because his mother is critically ill. His place will be taken by Mark Bennett.

Ice Hockey

Devils revel in sudden-death

Vic Batchelder

THE Cardiff Devils like sudden-death overtime and they took full advantage of it to win 3-2 at Nottingham on Saturday and 5-4 at home to the Newcastle Cobras on Sunday.

The victories put them top of the Superleague, a point ahead of Newcastle and the Sheffield Steelers. They visit the Steelers tomorrow. "That will be a tough one," the Devils' coach Paul Heavey said yesterday, adding that though he had not received any requests for overtime rates from his players, "I wouldn't be surprised if they come in the office and start talking about it."

Heavey said Cardiff would stand by their Canadian forward Marty Yewchuk, who, having appealed against an initial nine-game suspension, had his ban increased to 20 matches on Saturday. "The club is shocked at the suspension, it's way too excessive. We'll be exploring all avenues to get the decision reversed if possible," said Heavey, adding that he believed the Superleague was making an example of Yewchuk as a deterrent to others.

The Peterborough Pirates attracted their best crowd of the season on Sunday to see what may prove to have been the financially stricken Premier League's club last game. If it was, they have the small consolation that they beat Telford 7-4.

The Pirates, whose latest potential backer broke off takeover negotiations last week, have until tomorrow evening to pay off some of their debts to the British Ice Hockey Association, which has postponed their next three games while further rescue moves are made.



Drug ban for British cyclist, page 13

Rangers bid for Dalglish, page 14

Giggs pulls out of Wales squad, page 14

Dallaglio leads the field, page 15

# Sports Guardian

## GASCOIGNE ON GASCOIGNE

'I can't really describe the rage inside. Obviously what happened with my wife I deeply regret, and that will live with me for ever.'

'I don't blame the likes of the women's rights. I don't blame anybody for wanting me kicked out of the squad.'



Facing it out... Paul Gascoigne, self-confessed wife-beater, with Glenn Hoddle, under fire for including him in the England squad. PHOTOGRAPH TOM JENKINS

David Lacey with the England party on a day when violence counselling upstaged World Cup qualifying team-talk

## I'm a changed man, really I am

ENGLAND yesterday began their preparations for Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Georgia in what might now be regarded as normal circumstances. Dominic Matteo was bothered by a

recurrent knee injury. Tony Adams was due at a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, and Paul Gascoigne bared his soul. He bared it, moreover, like Gypsy Rose Lee, with an expertise born of practice. And

after being grilled by reporters with almost every question except "When did you stop beating your wife?" he received a round of applause. It was not the media's most glorious moment. On Friday Glenn Hoddle,

the England coach, announced Gascoigne's inclusion in the squad for Tbilisi despite allegations that the player had battered Sheryl, his wife of 14 weeks, during an argument at the Gleneagles Hotel 19 days earlier.

The public reaction was fiercely critical of Hoddle's decision. Women's groups were enraged. His explanation that Gascoigne needed help, was having counselling, and that leaving him out would have been too easy an option, did not spare Hoddle from accusations that he had regarded football skill as reason enough not to censure a player who hit a female.

Yesterday Gascoigne, not Hoddle, decided the time was right for a public show of remorse. By the time he had finished, it was tempting to believe that in his 30th year Gazza Cretrinus had at last become Gazza Sapientis. We have been this way before. In the past, whenever Gascoigne has appeared to be on the point of reapplying for membership of the human race, he has tended to take a raincheck at the last minute. The difference now would appear to be the professional help he decided to seek after

## Golfers never die, they grow old gracefully



Richard Williams

LEE TREVINO won a tournament on Sunday, which is good news for those who like to see games played with a certain panache. They will not be surprised to hear that the 56-year-old earned his victory by sinking a 38ft birdie putt at the first hole of a five-way play-off. He had been on his way out of the clubhouse at the Moors Golf Club in Milton, Florida with his bag in his hand, on his way to collect the cheque for a tied second place in the Emerald Coast Classic, when he heard the news that Dave Stockton, the leader, had bogeyed the 17th.

Trevino put his bag down and had a rethink. He had already given his hat and his remaining balls to a security guard. "I said, 'Listen, you've got to give me the balls back. I've got another hat'."

Ten minutes later he could afford a few more hats. How much do you think that play-off putt was worth to Trevino, almost three decades after he won his first major? A cheque for \$157,788, that's how much. His first victory this year also gave him the 27th of his career on the Senior Tour, which is a record, to add to the two Opens, two US Opens and two US PGAs he conquered between 1968 and 1984. By maintaining his record of a tournament win in each of the past seven years, he boosted his on-course return for the year to \$636,753 and pushed his career total as a senior to \$6,689,649, enabling him to retake the career lead from Bob Charles, the great left-hander from New Zealand.

Trevino versus the rest at the Moors was the first five-way play-off in the history of the Senior Tour, which will do its box office reputation no harm at all. But a nail-biting finish with big money at stake is not really the point of sport between seniors, veterans, classic sportsmen, heritage heroes or whatever marketing-friendly label you want to stick on those oldies who won't lie down and die. The prosperity of an event such as the Emerald Coast Classic has the same root as that of so much professional sport at the end of the century. Nobody actually clamoured

for the veterans to set up their own tour. What they are doing is feeding the boundless appetite of all those television channels out there. And the sponsors and advertisers love it because the appearance of famous names guarantees a certain level of interest and exposure. But the by-product is a lot of harmless fun for the rest of us.

Not all sports are ideally suited to it. First among those, you might have thought, would be boxing. But the world heavyweight championship continues to provide the spectacle of the world's most highly paid senior sportsmen shaking their punches at one another. But not so flattering to a former professional cycling champion, the memory of all those years of pain would almost certainly deter you from anything more than a social spin on a Sunday afternoon. Athletics, rugby and football are too aerobically demanding, and — as those kickabouts they sometimes have before the Cup final prove — the contrast between the images in our memory and the reality in front of our eyes is too painful. Rickett is fine for batsman but not so flattering to bowlers, although I would pay good money and travel a fair distance to see any match featuring Dennis Lillee and Michael Holding in their present states of repair.

Motor racing is pretty good, and it doesn't even need to be competitive. Too young to have seen Stirling Moss driving a Vanwall in the late Fifties, I watched him guide one gently around Monza 20 years later, treating the elegant green car as gently as if it were the district nurse's Morris Minor. Somehow it was still the real thing.

SOMETIMES the ageing process actually lets you see more. In golf, there is a chance to study the swings of once-great players at reduced speed, which makes it easier to savour the beauty and individuality of the mechanism. For this sort of thing, as for much else, tennis is the best game of the lot. It always surprises me that such a demanding game can be played with undiminished enjoyment into old age, since it involves sprits, hinges, keen eyes and quick reflexes. Yet Laver, Rosewall, Santana and many others play today almost exactly as they did in their prime, increasing with every year the number of generations who can claim the pleasure of saying they saw them at first hand and were not disappointed.

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**"I've watched a lot of my friends being lousy parents", says Turow, "because they can't stand saying no. They were anti-authoritarian in their attitudes and they don't like being the authority. It's been a significant problem with my generation."**

Scott Turow talks to Mark Lawson

**G2 page 7**

**Guardian Crossword No 20,802**

Set by Araucaria

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

**Across**

- How lazy can you get round a tree on the night of 23 177 (7)
- Disconnected belligerent (7)
- Centre of road network source of 6a on 23 17 (4)
- Primate entertaining marshal to turn with topper (7-3)
- Guy from the West among the inauthentic (6)
- Romance left in the boxes? (4,4)
- The French island's secret exposed in a city (9)
- See 15
- See 23
- A little preparation wouldn't go amiss on 23 17 (9,4)
- Time to celebrate venom removed by female if in bedroom (6,5)
- Locomotive plant for 23 17 (6)
- Student gets one jewel — nothing crooked about it — it's a favour (10)
- See 18
- Regular soldier in hospital? (7)
- 10's woman has a little cleavage (7)

**Down**

- Pipe outside tank like the Big-enlans' eggs (7)
- Sport enthusiast often gets out (6)
- Crass it may be to be such discriminating people (7)
- Have power before old age arises and you snuff it (6)
- One only rigged Arab ship — the rig doesn't matter (3,3,3)
- Speech sound — give me a bell (7)

**CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS 20,801**

- Not much mercy shown in Lilliputian ghetto? (6,7)
- 15, 16 Pet, female, one with a shoe repair on 23 17 (8,5)
- Blunt instrument for drinks at the club? (4,3)
- Feverish sort of 1 gets a lot of credit (7)
- Pooh's asinine friend cavorting round pole — not a pretty sight (7)
- Come down face first, nearly sick with mad cow disease (6)
- Cavort with saucy little morsel (5)

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